



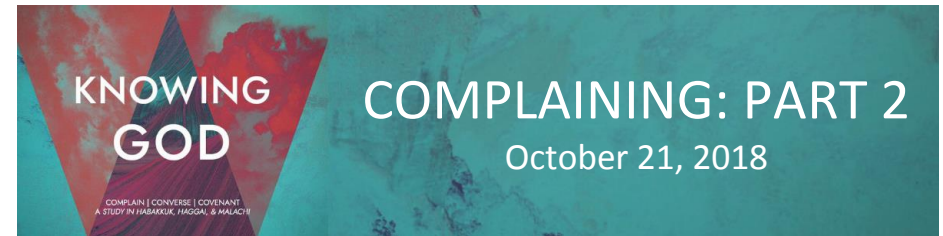
As the discussion leader, here are a few things to keep in mind for your Life Group: • **Pray** for your group discussion time! • **Review** your notes from Sunday's message and familiarize yourself with the discussion questions prior to your group meeting. • **Choose** a few questions from the guide which you feel will generate the most discussion in your group. For questions with multiple parts, answer the first part before reading the next part to the group. These questions are designed to build on the answer of the previous part before moving on.

#### **Getting to Know Me**

"When we don't understand what God is doing, we must focus on what God is like." Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

#### **Exploring the Word – Habakkuk 1:12-2:5**

1. As you listened to the message, what points stood out?
2. Read Habakkuk 1:12-13. Why does Habakkuk respond to God with another complaint? What does he cease to understand about the Israelites?
3. Amid his complaints, what attributes of God does Habakkuk mention in verses twelve and thirteen? How can these attributes help remind us about God's character when we question Him?
4. Read Habakkuk 1:14-17. How does Habakkuk's complaint in these verses end? Has he reached any understanding about God's plans?
5. Read Habakkuk 2:1-5. What does God tell Habakkuk to do before He answers his complaint? How can writing things down help us?
6. How does God begin to answer Habakkuk's complaint? What are the differences between a prideful and righteous person?
7. In verse four God tells Habakkuk that "the righteous will live by their faithfulness to God." This verse is foundational for the doctrine of justification by faith. What is justification and how should we, as "justified" people, live (refer to Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, & Hebrews 10:37-38)?



#### **Habakkuk 1:12-2:4**

##### **I. The blindness of complaint (1:12-13)**

- Complaining focuses on the perceived faults of others as it distracts from our own.
- Complaint selfishly accuses and dismisses another's perspective rather than respectfully seeks to understand.
- Complaint blinds us to the difference between flattery and appreciation of the good in others.
- Complaint stunts the growth of relationship from recognition to appreciation.

##### **II. The relational strain from complaint (1:14-17)**

- Habakkuk blamed God for the injustices on earth.
- Complaint lowers our view of another in a misguided attempt to excuse our irresponsibility.
- Complainers inconsistently and hypocritically want control of the relational standards.

##### **III. The just live by faith (2:1-4)**

- God listened and respectfully disagreed.
- Listening is significantly different from hearing.
- Listening results in understanding and respecting a perspective we may never agree with.
- People are justified before God through trusting his love and grace.
- People who are justified by God demonstrate his love and grace.