

# SMALL GROUP GUIDE

## Bible Study: Hope in the Midst of Questions

Based on the sermon from Habakkuk 1-3 by Pastor Brian Rogers

### Key Takeaways from the Teaching

#### 1. God Can Handle Your Questions

- Habakkuk was transparent and honest with God about his struggles
- Being honest before God shows dependence, not disrespect
- Prayerlessness illustrates powerlessness
- God already knows what we're going through

#### 2. God's Plans Are Bigger Than Our Perspective

- We see the situation from our limited viewpoint
- God sees the complete picture from beginning to end
- Sometimes we're looking at the "wrong side of the embroidery"
- God promises to "work a work in your days" (Habakkuk 1:5)

#### 3. Hope Is Found When You Choose to Rejoice

- Hope is not based on what we see, but on who God is
- Habakkuk moved from complaint (chapter 1) to song (chapter 3)
- Even when circumstances don't change, we can choose to rejoice in the Lord
- God's grace is sufficient in our weakness

### Discussion Questions

#### Section 1: Being Honest with God (15-20 minutes)

1. **Read Habakkuk 1:1-5 together.** What questions does Habakkuk ask God? How would you describe his emotional state?
2. Why do you think many Christians struggle to be completely honest with God about their doubts and questions?
3. Pastor Rogers said, "God can handle your big questions." Have you ever held back from expressing your true feelings to God? What happened when you finally were honest with Him?
4. **Reflection:** What is the difference between questioning God in faith versus questioning God in unbelief?

#### Section 2: Trusting God's Perspective (15-20 minutes)

1. Pastor Rogers used the analogy of a parent not giving car keys to a 10-year-old. Share an example from your life where you later understood why God's "no" or "wait" was actually better than your plan.
2. **Read Romans 8:28.** How does this verse help us when we're in the middle of a difficult situation and can't see the "good" yet?
3. The sermon mentioned looking at embroidery from the wrong side. When have you experienced seeing only the "messy side" of what God was doing, only to later see the beautiful result?
4. What practical steps can we take to shift from our limited perspective to seeking God's perspective?

### **Section 3: Choosing to Rejoice (15-20 minutes)**

1. **Read Habakkuk 3:17-19 together.** List all the negative circumstances Habakkuk mentions. Then note his response. What does this teach us about biblical rejoicing?
2. Pastor Rogers said, "Hope is not based on what we see, but rather hope is based on who God is." What's the difference between these two foundations for hope?
3. How can we "lift up the sacrifice of praise" when we're in our darkest moments? What does this look like practically?
4. Habakkuk moved from complaint to song. What needs to happen in our hearts for this same transformation to occur?

## Personal Reflection Questions

Allow time for silent reflection. Encourage members to journal or simply meditate on these questions:

- What question am I currently asking God?
- Am I trying to figure things out with my own limited perspective instead of trusting God's plan?
- What would it look like for me to choose to rejoice in my current circumstances?
- Where do I need to experience God's sufficient grace this week?

## Practical Applications

### **This Week's Challenge:**

Choose **ONE** of the following to practice this week:

#### **Option 1: Honest Prayer Journal**

- Set aside 15 minutes daily to write honest prayers to God
- Don't filter your questions or emotions
- End each entry with a statement of who God is (His character/attributes)

#### **Option 2: Perspective Shift**

- Identify one difficult situation you're facing

- Write down your current perspective
- Ask God to show you His perspective and write down any insights
- Share with an accountability partner

### Option 3: Praise in the Storm

- Choose one worship song that declares God's faithfulness
- When anxiety or questions arise, play/sing this song as a "sacrifice of praise"
- Keep a record of how this practice affects your emotional/spiritual state

### Option 4: Gratitude Practice

- Each day, write down 3 things you're grateful for (even small things)
- Include at least one aspect of God's character you're thankful for
- At week's end, review your list and notice patterns

## Memory Verse

**Habakkuk 3:18** - "Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation."

Encourage group members to memorize this verse and recite it when facing difficult moments this week.

## Closing Discussion

1. What was your biggest takeaway from today's discussion?
2. How can we pray for each other this week regarding the questions or struggles we're facing?

## Prayer Time

### Suggested Prayer Format:

1. **Confession:** Allow members to honestly share their struggles with God (out loud or silently)
  2. **Petition:** Pray specifically for the needs shared in the group
  3. **Praise:** Even in the midst of difficulties, declare who God is and choose to rejoice in Him
  4. **Commitment:** Ask God for strength to trust His perspective and timing this week
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