

A Cry for Help

Setting the Scene

- Habakkuk is a prophet talking directly to God. He loves the law, righteousness, and God's people.
- Habakkuk privately wrestles with the Lord, and he models for us honest doubting.
- At the time Habakkuk is speaking to the Lord, Israel is split into two kingdoms and Judah, the southern kingdom, is in disrepair morally and spiritually.

Habakkuk's Cry

1:1–4

- Habakkuk cries out to God because of the wickedness he sees in Judah.
- Habakkuk wants to see the Lord protect and restore Judah.

The Lord's Response

1:5–11

- The Lord not only sees the injustice in Judah; He is raising up the Chaldeans, also called Babylonians, to bring judgment on His people.
- Even though the Chaldeans are evil, the Lord promises to do an unbelievable work in Judah *through* the Chaldeans.

Habakkuk's Protest

1:12–

2:1

- Habakkuk is perplexed with the answer God gives and struggles to understand that God could be good and allow the evil Chaldeans to capture His beloved people.
- Habakkuk remembers God's holiness and character.
- Instead of turning from God, Habakkuk goes to God with his concerns and questions.

Cry out _____ to the Lord.

_____ for the Lord's response.

*Bring your worries, doubts, fears, and questions to God,
trusting that _____ is too big or hard for Him.*

HABAKKUK 1:1–2:1

May 29-30, 2024

1. Take time to introduce yourself to everyone at your table and share what you are most looking forward to this summer.

2. Read Habakkuk 1:1–4. An oracle is the message given to a prophet or prophetess directly from God, and Habakkuk is speaking directly to God in this book. What does this tell you about Habakkuk's relationship with God?

What is Habakkuk's complaint in verses 1–4?

In these verses, Habakkuk describes to God what he is seeing in Judah. What emotions do you see as he talks with God?

3. Read Habakkuk 1:5–11. In verse 5, what does the Lord say He is going to do?

Chaldeans is another word for Babylonians, who were vicious enemies of God's people. List all the words God uses to describe the Chaldeans and the havoc they will wreak on Judah.

Imagine you are Habakkuk hearing from the Lord of the destruction coming to His people in Judah. What questions or protests might you have?

When have you questioned or protested the Lord in your own life? If you are willing, please share.

4. Read Habakkuk 1:12–17. Habakkuk struggles to honestly understand the justice and mercy of the Lord who will allow His beloved people to suffer under the Chaldeans. Even in his struggle, Habakkuk recognizes who God is. How does Habakkuk describe the Lord in these verses?

What do his descriptions tell you about the character of God?

5. In what situations have you struggled to believe God is good in your own life? Please share.