

INTRO

- If you could ask God any question, what would it be?
- What is something currently happening in the world that you find hard to make sense of?

Habakkuk is highly relevant today as we join him on his journey and struggle with God that leads him out of disillusionment and despair at the way things are, towards genuine trust and hope in God.

READ & REFLECT

Read Habakkuk 1:5-11.

God answers Habakkuk's complaint (1:2-4) about the dire situation of Israel. Habakkuk has now gone from unanswered prayer to an unexpected answer to prayer!

Qu: what about God's answer was so shocking to Habakkuk?

Qu: Has God ever answered your prayer in a way you didn't expect? Share.

Qu: How does it make you feel to know that God often answers us and works on our behalf in ways we don't fully perceive?

Read 1:12-2:1

Habakkuk responds to God with absolute shock and disgust at God's proposed answer: Babylon!

Qu: Habakkuk struggles with what many of us struggle to understand: how can God use evil for his purpose? How does the suffering and injustice of Jesus' death help us to begin to answer this?

How should we respond when God doesn't make sense?

ACKNOWLEDGE...

Acknowledge the fact that it doesn't make sense. We can and should practice honesty before God. We must also acknowledge the fact of our limited perspective.

Qu: do you think it is reasonable or fair to expect to make sense of everything God does? Explain.

Qu: what do we stand to lose when we expect God to make perfect sense to us all the time?

BELIEVE...GOD'S CHARACTER

Habakkuk struggles to understand God's plan but strengthens himself in *who* God is. When we doubt *what* God is doing or *how* He answers us, trust in *who God is*, particularly his sovereignty and goodness.

Qu: think of the parent-child relationship. Parents often make decisions out of love for their child that don't make sense to the child in their limited perspective. How might this be a picture of our relationship with God?

CONTINUE...TO PURSE GOD & LOOK TO CHRIST

When it's hard to see, hear or feel God in a moment of difficulty, evil & suffering, let the life, death and resurrection of Jesus encourage you that God has not abandoned you and that God is able to redeem any and all situations that don't make sense to us.

Remember Jesus' prayer for you:

*"I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you 'keep them from the evil one.'" —
John 17:15*

RESPOND & PRAY

- What was most encouraging and most challenging in today's discussion?
- Pray for one another especially for those who are trying to make sense of something in their life at present.