

INTRO

The Urban Dictionary's definition of "The Struggle is Real" is this:

A (generally) ironic saying often used in place of the saying, "first world problems".

- Tell of a recent #firstworldproblem you have encountered.

READ

Habakkuk 2:5-20

REFLECT & RESPOND

Habakkuk paints a grim picture of the culture surrounding him. We can pause and see many similarities to the 21st century, and to our own personal struggles. And yet, within these writings, we find hope and encouragement when - in the truest sense - "The Struggle is Real".

1. Habakkuk is our reminder to stay with God.

I will take my stand at my watchpost and station myself on the tower, and look out to see what he will say to me, and what I will answer concerning my complaint.

Habakkuk 2:1 ESV

The watchpost or tower was a place of safety in battle. It is also a place where one is positioned above the battle, and can gain perspective.

Qu: Can you think of a time when you were able to gain new perspective on a situation you were facing? How did this perspective come?

2. It's our reminder there's hope in God.

For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay. "Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith. Habakkuk 2:3-4 ESV

Qu: When the answer you are seeking seems slow in coming, or what you are hoping for seems far away, what can you do practically to hold onto hope?

How can you support one another when the waiting seems endless?

3. Habakkuk is our reminder to be still & listen.

But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him."

Habakkuk 2:20 ESV

"But oh! God is in his holy Temple! Quiet everyone—a holy silence. Listen!

Habakkuk 2:20 MSG

Qu: If you have faith in God and, like Habakkuk, have brought your questions and complaints to the Lord, how do God's answers come?

PRAY

Habakkuk speaks of God's judgement:

The cup (*wrath, judgement*) in the Lord's right hand will come around to you, and utter shame will come upon your glory! Habakkuk 2:16b ESV

From our perspective today, we know that on the night before his crucifixion, Jesus chose to take that cup, and, in his death, took upon himself the sins of the world, and the penalty for those sins.

Pray:

- thanking Jesus for the price he paid for us
- thanking God for the hope we have in him
- thanking God that we can trust him in all circumstances

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. Habakkuk 2:14