

**INTRO**

- What was your first cellphone?
- How is technology changing us as people (whether in helpful and/or harmful ways?)

In today's passage, Habakkuk offers a prayer-psalm to show us a way to respond to God when we feel like giving up.

**READ**

Habakkuk 3:1-16

**REFLECT**

In this passage, Habakkuk recounts the story of the Exodus—how God delivers, preserves and leads his people out of Egypt into the Promised Land—through rather epic albeit difficult poetry.

*Qu: Why do you think Habakkuk recounts this particular story of Israel's history?*

The formative power of both STORY and PRAYER leads Habakkuk to have HOPE when the struggle is real.

**FORMATION THROUGH STORY**

**Our whole lives are shaped by *some* story.**

Story provides context for our lives through understanding the meaning of history, gives shape to our lives, and provides direction.

*Qu: share some aspects of your personal story (upbringing, culture, how you became a Christian).*

*Qu: Do you think there is one comprehensive story that's true for all of us?*

**Scripture presents one comprehensive and unfolding story of redemption.**

The bible can mean many things to people, but it is ultimately the story of God and his actions in history.

**We need to know God's story and find our place within this story,** if our lives and personal

stories are going to be shaped by the story of Scripture. Here's an outline for the drama/story of the Bible:

- Act 1: God establishes his kingdom: *Creation*
- Act 2: Rebellion in the Kingdom: *Fall*
- Act 3: The King Chooses Israel: *Redemption Initiated*
- Act 4: The Coming of the King: *Redemption Accomplished*
- Act 5: Spreading the News of the King: *Church*
- Act 6: The Return of the King: *Redemption Completed/Restoration*

*Qu: How does this overview of Scripture help you?*

**FORMATION THROUGH PRAYER**

The second thing Habakkuk has been doing is praying. Recounting God's story *informs* his prayer (Hab 3:2b) and now prayer *forms* him.

*Qu: how does prayer change us?*

*Qu: why does Jesus call us to pray for his kingdom & will to come wherever we are on earth?*

**FORMATION —> TRANSFORMATION**

Read Hab 3:16 again.

*Qu: what has changed for Habakkuk?*

Despite no changes in the circumstances (Babylon will come and judge Israel), Habakkuk is a different man because his *perspective* has changed through his encounter with God in prayer and remembering the Story of God.

**God invites us to find our story in his story; To allow his story to transform our story ; so that we can experience hope in our present struggles.**

**RESPOND & PRAY**

- Use Hab 3:2 as a guide to pray for each other, our city and nation.