

Day 1

March 30



Pray | Ask for understanding of God's plan for us today

If God is a good God who wants good things for us, why do bad things happen? When devastating circumstances disrupt our lives, we begin to doubt God. Even the most faithful among us can become doubtful. Where is God? Why is he allowing this? Is he really good? Does he even exist?

The book of Habakkuk, written 2,600 years ago, has startling relevance for people today. Habakkuk, a minor prophet, is angry at God. He feels as though God isn't hearing his cries for help from the evil and suffering in his society. Like many people today, Habakkuk wonders why a righteous, loving God doesn't intervene. Through the book of Habakkuk over the next five weeks, we will see why God allows suffering and injustice.



Read | Habakkuk 1:1-4



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:

Like Habakkuk, many of us get angry at God. Others try to rationalize God's silence thinking that God might be answering their prayers with a "no." Some people even give up and stop praying, convinced that God doesn't care. How can you respond and help those you know through these feelings of doubt in God's faithfulness?

At this very moment, like Habakkuk, many of us are angry at God. Our worldly life as we knew it has been suddenly halted by a virus. Many of us are missing the freedom to go out and about as we once did, we no longer feel the safety we once perceived, our personal connections are being interrupted for "social distancing," people are sick and dying. You might feel like God is ignoring your prayers, but he is with us, he is listening, he is working for us. Spend some time reflecting on how you see and feel God through today's circumstances.

At one time or another, most of us have wished for a face-to-face question and answer session with God. Habakkuk was given the opportunity. What would you ask God if given the same chance as Habakkuk? Spend a few minutes in prayer talking to God. Ask him your tough questions. Be honest; he is listening.

Day 2

March 31



Pray | *Ask God for patience as you wait for his response*

Have you ever prayed months, or even years, for something or a solution to a problem? After days or weeks of feeling as though your prayers are being ignored, it's easy to wonder if this is what God's plan for you is. Is God not listening, or are you just not praying long enough or faithfully enough?

Habakkuk asked similar questions. He asked God how long he had to cry out before receiving an answer (Habakkuk 1:2). He seemed to think that God was standing idly and doing nothing while great injustice was happening. It seems as if God wasn't hearing Habakkuk's prayers. Or was he?



Read | *Habakkuk 1:1-5*



Reflect | *Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:*

God does not condemn Habakkuk for questioning his actions and asking questions. Instead, he answers and gives Habakkuk hope. Is there something you are afraid to ask God? A prayer that seems selfish, or a circumstance you are questioning? What is holding you back from being honest and truthful with God, the one who loves you most?

God tells Habakkuk that he will be utterly amazed with his plan. Reflect on a time when you were completely amazed by God's love and work in your life, and spend some time in thanks and praise.

God told Habakkuk to look around and watch for what he was going to do, something so amazing he wouldn't believe it if God told him what was going to happen. What does this passage show us about God's character and work in the world? Where are you seeing God at work in today's trying times?

Day 3

April 1



Pray | Seek direction and understanding through today's tough times

God answers prayer in unexpected ways. He doesn't always answer our prayers in the ways we think he should; sometimes he answers them in ways we don't like. Do we trust him? If we truly believe that God loves us and has a greater plan for us, we can trust that his plans really are best, even when we can't possibly see a positive outcome from our current situation.

God didn't ignore Habakkuk; he heard his prayers. God acknowledged the problem and promised to act, although God didn't act in a way Habakkuk would expect. God planned to use the Babylonians to punish the Jews. God chose not to use a godly nation who follows him, but instead a wicked nation, one that has no regard for God.



Read | Habakkuk 1:5-11



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:

God knows that Habakkuk will be shocked by this plan to use the Babylonians and will not believe it or understand it right away. Reflect on a time when you've seen God work a bad situation for good. How does this give you hope through the events in our world today?

If we believe that God is loving and good, then we can trust that his plans for us are for good and not for evil. What is one thing in your life, or our world right now, that causes you to doubt or question God?

God listened to Habakkuk's concerns and wants Habakkuk to truly pay attention to his response. God is the source of all truth, all light, all wisdom. Do you pray asking only for an answer to your situations, or do you pray also seeking to learn from and grow with God through his response? Spend some time in prayer, giving God your doubts and seeking his wisdom.

Day 4

April 2



Pray | Thanking God for loving you regardless of your sins

Have you ever questioned God's fairness? Has something bad ever happened to you, and you responded with, "That's just not fair!" Life is frequently unfair, but saying that *life* is unfair is very different from saying that *God* is unfair.

Habakkuk is struggling with God's justice. In Habakkuk's eyes, Judah was sinful, but the Babylonians were even worse. How could God use the Babylonians to judge the people of Judah, when the Babylonians were even more wicked than the people God was judging? That seemed so unfair to Habakkuk.



Read | [Habakkuk 1:12-17](#)



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:

In verses 12-13 we see that Habakkuk has a high view of God. He believes that God is everlasting, holy, and pure. He knows that God hates sin and cannot tolerate it. Babylon is wicked and yet prospers, so he is confused with God's justice. Think about a time when you have been confused by God's response to a situation. Have you ever accused God of being unfair? Looking back now, do you see what God's greater purpose was?

With today's current events, we sometimes wonder why God allows such suffering in the world. Or we may wonder why evil people seem to be suffering less than we are. Will you allow these questions to cause you to turn away from God, or use them to lean into God?

Reflect on this week's passage and the lessons can we learn from Habakkuk about communicating with God. If you have doubts or confusion about your experiences or things you see, how should you handle it with God?

Day 5

April 3



Pray | Thank God for loving and providing for us

When devastating and confusing circumstances cause us to question God, we can be assured he cares, has a plan, and is working it all together for the good of those who love him. We may not understand because we only see part of the story, but God sees the big picture and has a plan greater than anything we could imagine. He is working with us and through us every single day, even during our most mundane tasks.

Reflect on the words of 'Way Maker' as you read and reflect on today's passage: "Even when I can't see it, you're working, even when I can't feel it, you're working, you never stop, never stop working."

https://youtu.be/iICV_2H9xD0



Read | Romans 8:28, Isaiah 41:10



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:

List experiences and observations that have caused you to doubt God and his purposes. How can these things that you listed help lead you to a deeper understanding of God and his work?

Isaiah 41:10 says, "I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you." In what activities and tasks while at home and work these past few days have you felt strengthened by God? Did you give him the praise and thanks he deserves, or grumble and complain because you're not where you want to be?

Regardless of our current struggles, we can have hope. We are saved the minute we commit our lives and put our hope in Jesus. Are you a follower of Jesus? Spend some time in prayer committing your heart your life to living for Jesus. Even during a time such as COVID-19 quarantine, our pastors and staff at Five Oaks are available to pray with you. If you'd like to commit your life to Jesus, and/or would like prayer, you may submit a prayer request [online here](#).

Unless indicated otherwise, all Scripture quotations are taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version® (NIV®). Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc. ® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.