



# Hope in the Dark

## Moving on from Normal

#nphopeinthedark

Week 5

5 of 5

May 17, 2020

**Bottom Line:** God wants relationship, not routine; personal, not practice.

**Icebreaker:** What's your morning routine? Where in your life do you have a quirky routine that you just can't feel right without? (eating, dressing, packing, etc.)

**Key Verse:** *LORD, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, LORD. Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.* Habakkuk 3:2 NIV

We tend to be creatures of habit. Routines can be good, as they simplify life. But routine can destroy relationships too. You can have a relationship that looks healthy but is actually masked by routine. Habakkuk had a regular routine with God. Then suddenly his circumstances changed and his routine no longer worked. He found out what we may discover: God disrupts our routine in order to build the relationship.

**God wants to move us from ordinary prayers to extraordinary (bold) prayers.** Prayer is how you let God be God and you be you. You lay your heart open to God, and He never gets impatient. He is never overwhelmed. He is always patient, gentle, kind, and wise. Whenever you need Him, He is there. Through prayer you release pressure. You transfer the burdens that God never intended you to carry, and quit over-functioning. Like Habakkuk, our prayer moves from ordinary into extraordinary adoration and into the realm of great faith with extraordinary requests. **God wants to move us from simply hearing God's Word to believing God's Word.** We get a true realization of the power and majesty of God. The deeper our relationship becomes, the more we believe in the purposes of God, and the greater our confidence is in the promises of God. We become deeply rooted and unshakeable. **God wants to move us from routine worship to passionate worship.** This is the kind of worship that doesn't flow because the problems are solved, but because the relationship is strengthened. Habakkuk ended his account with joyful and hope-filled worship. His worship was confident because his relationship was strong. This kind of worship fills the gap between where we are and where God said we would be. He isn't trying to use God to get anything. He is worshipping God because of who He is, not for what He gives. He has found in his struggle and crisis that there are many things in life he values, but he values his relationship with God the most. That is what God wants to do for us.

### THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

Sometimes our greatest opportunity is when we get frustrated with God. How could that be so? How does Habakkuk get his opportunity?

For many of us, prayer is nothing more than telling God what we want Him to do. What is wrong with that? What does God want prayer to be?

Hopelessness is when you give up. Faith is when you give it to God. How can you make sure that when you pray you are exercising faith, not hopelessness?

Prayer is how you release pressure. Prayer is how you transfer your burden. If you are truly able to do this, you will definitely move from routine to relationship. How would you advise someone who is new at prayer to engage in pressure-relieving, burden-transferring prayer?

Without prayer you over-function. How?

### LOOK IT OVER <<<

We want resolution; God wants a relationship. How have you discovered that tension in your own walk with God? How does the relationship suffer when you are over-focused on the resolution of a problem?

We want God to get rid of all our problems; God wants us to rest in His presence. Have you felt any of that tension between your goals and God's goals during the pandemic?

The opposite of worship is idolatry. Idolatry is using God to get something that we value more than God. Reflect and discuss.

Passionate worship comes from surrender. How did Habakkuk illustrate his surrender? Have you ever been in a place where it looks like things may never get better, but you surrender and worship anyway? If so, what happened to your relationship with God?

Everything God gives will go away, but the relationship with God endures forever. Discuss.

# NEXT STEPS

1. Change the way you pray this week. Find a time to talk to God at least once when you tell Him everything that matters to you right now.
2. When you read your Bible, ask God to specifically reveal Himself in light of your situation.
3. Acknowledge what needs surrendered in your life.

## EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

**Bottom Line:** God wants relationship, not routine; personal, not practice.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

## PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

## DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at [newpointe.org/daily](http://newpointe.org/daily):

- Monday: James 4:2b-3
- Tuesday: Psalm 55:22
- Wednesday: John 14:21
- Thursday: Luke 5:5
- Friday: Daniel 3:16-18

***Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.***

*(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)*