



# Hope in the Dark

## It's Not Fair

#nphopeinthedark

Week 3

3 of 5

May 3, 2020

**Bottom Line:** Never trade what you do know for what you don't know.

**Icebreaker:** What's the most unusual craving you have had during the quarantine? What's your favorite experience during the stay-at-home order?

**Key Verse:** *LORD, are you not from everlasting? My God, my Holy One, you will never die. You, LORD, have appointed them to execute judgment; you, my Rock, have ordained them to punish.* Habakkuk 1:12 NIV

Habakkuk got hit with turbulence that was shaking his life. He is struggling to trust in a God he doesn't understand. He is surrounded by evil and violence that God doesn't stop, so he is asking God questions. He isn't accusing God but asking. He told God that he was having a hard time reconciling his experience with God's character. Perhaps you can identify. He asks, "Where are you, God? Why aren't you involved? When are you going to get involved? Why are good things happening to bad people and bad things happening to good people?"

Habakkuk stopped in his questioning to **remember who God is**. The most important thing about you is your view of God. Your life will either gravitate around your personal experiences or your view of God. Habakkuk reminded himself of who God is: self-existent, holy, almighty, faithful. When we meet with God, it is not to inform God but to invite God. When we remind ourselves first and foremost of who He is, we are enabled to **face reality**. Habakkuk recognized that the Babylonians were evil and seemed to be getting by with it. You must face reality in order to be helped, and God can help you do that without panic. Then Habakkuk **connected with God**. He prayed, he scheduled time to hear from God clearly. For us to do that effectively, we will have to turn technology off and be patient and wait. So often we simply want answers, but God always wants a relationship. **Read the Word**. You cannot hear effectively from God without His Word. The Word may not say what you want to hear, but it will be what you need. Like Habakkuk, we have to keep our faith, and keep it focused on God. If we lose that, we will lose hope. Last, Habakkuk was able to **celebrate**. When he focused on God and heard from Him, he was able to realize that evil will not win in the end. God IS involved. He IS going to do something. With great confidence, Habakkuk affirmed that God and righteousness would win. Even though it rains on the just and the unjust, ultimately it doesn't end well for bad people. Stay focused and trust God.

### THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

Is it easy or hard for you to respectfully ask God your questions? Do you tend to not ask, or are you more likely to be angry and resentful? Why?

Have you ever had a hard time "reconciling your experience with God's character"? What happened?

We have the book of Habakkuk because the prophet "journalled" his thoughts and experiences. Have you ever done that? If so, how does it help you sort out truth? If not, is that something you would be willing to try? Why or why not?

A.W. Tozer said, "The most important thing about you is your view of God." Why do you think he said that? Do believe it is accurate? Why or why not?

If you base your view of God on your personal experiences, your view of and relationship with God will fluctuate with your circumstances. Reflect and discuss.

### LOOK IT OVER <<<

Habakkuk remembered that God is eternal, self-existent, holy, almighty, and faithful. How does knowing that help you? What would you add to the list?

God is in control of literally everything in your life. He has His hand on everything. How does that statement impact you? Is it helpful, scary, or does it feel confusing?

To deal with life you have to live in reality. Being overly optimistic can be a problem. How do you accept reality without losing hope?

What good things tend to take the place of connecting with God through prayer and the Word for you?

Oftentimes we want answers, but God wants a relationship. How can you make sure your prayers are about a relationship?

When you look to the future, what makes you celebrate? Why?

# NEXT STEPS

1. Make a list of what you do know about God.
2. Remind yourself of specific instances of His faithfulness to you and your family.
3. Talk to God realistically and hopefully on a regular basis.

## EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

**Bottom Line:** Never trade what you do know for what you don't know.

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: Psalm 84:10

Tuesday: 1 Peter 5:6-7

Wednesday: 2 Chronicles 16:9

Thursday: Proverbs 3:5-6; Hebrews 4:16

Friday: Psalm 13:1-2, 5-6

***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)*