



# Hope in the Dark Where Are You, God?

#nphopeinthedark

Week 1

1 of 5

April 19, 2020

**Bottom Line:** Faith is trusting an unknown future to the known God.

**Icebreaker:** What is something the rest of us don't know about you that we would find out if we were quarantined with you for a month?

**Key Verse:** *How long, O LORD, must I call for help? But you do not listen!* Habakkuk 1:2a NLT

Habakkuk is a prophet who spoke to God on behalf of the people. He is wrestling with a basic question. "If God is good and God is in control, why is the world the way it is?" He feels that God isn't doing much, and what He is doing is unfair. He is in the middle of a situation so major that it has him overwhelmed and paralyzed. He was wondering if God was ever going to show up. He has a God-sized problem, and it seems God is indifferent to his situation.

Have you been there? Have you felt God doesn't care, or that He is deaf and blind to your situation? Believers have these kinds of questions because we believe in our God, but we don't understand why a good and just, powerful and generous God isn't doing anything. It doesn't make sense. We wrestle with our faith, and we will do one of three things: 1) We will CHECK OUT. We believe that Jesus died for our sins, but now we are basically on our own. Or, 2) We will BACK OUT. We will walk away from God altogether. Both of those options are futile and fatal to saving faith. We must choose to 3) TALK IT OUT. Habakkuk did. He engaged in a courageous conversation with God.

God answers him and gives him hope. He told Habakkuk that he needed to open up his eyes and see beyond the obvious. God WAS at work, so much so that He said Habakkuk wouldn't believe it even if he were told. He gave a hint of what He was going to do, and His action was going to be direct and big. Habakkuk began to get it, and he responded, "The just will live by faith" (2:4). Faith is not a force, power, or formula. It is confidence that God is and will do what He promised. It is not getting our way but aligning with God's way. Faith seeks to move away from frustration with God to understanding God. Faith is choosing to believe the best about God, not the worst about Him. It recognizes the difference between hurt and harm. The foundation of it all is that faith is trusting an unknown future to our known God. That faith gets us through the bad times as we await the good times.

## THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

When in your life could you most identify with Habakkuk's heart and questions?

Habakkuk is a man of prayer. He doesn't just turn to God in trouble. How is Habakkuk's cry to God different from many other people's angry cries to God in trouble?

"I've done everything I know to get your attention, God, but You seem to be indifferent." When have you felt that way? Did you have the courage to confront God with it? If not, how did you handle it?

What causes you the most frustration and discouragement? The fact that people knowingly hurt you and others, or the fact that "God lets them get away with it" Why?

## LOOK IT OVER <<<

Do you know people who have checked out? They believe God has forgiven their sins but is distant on a daily basis? Do you know former Christians who have walked? What role does this perception that "God must not care if He's real" play? How do you think you might help them?

God is more than willing and open to have a crucial, critical conversation with you. How does this fit with your upbringing?

God always answers a prayer. Sometimes it is "No." Sometimes it is "Not Yet." Sometimes it is "Yes," and the yes is completely different than we ever imagined. Our responsibility is to humbly receive God's response. Reflect and discuss.

I am a bigger God than what is happening right now in your world and life. I am working right now. How does that response from God impact you?

Discuss the difference between hurt and harm.

# NEXT STEPS

1. Own the questions you are having, and have a courageous conversation with God.
2. Humbly wait and receive God's response.
3. Daily meet with God and affirm your trust of the future you don't know to the God you do know.

## EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

**Bottom Line:** Faith is trusting an unknown future to the known God.

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: Mark 9:21-24

Tuesday: James 1:2-4; Matthew 7:7-8

Wednesday: Hebrews 12:2-3

Thursday: Romans 5:3-4

Friday: 2 Corinthians 12:6-10

***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)*