



SDG Discussion Guide

Habakkuk 3

April 26, 2020

For starters:

How are you? What “freedoms” are you feeling the loss of most now?

What’s a particular spot from which you’ve liked to view the sunrise? What does a beautiful morning bring to mind for you?

“It’s always darkest before the dawn” - To what would that saying refer in your life these days?

Guideline:

Before you begin the reading of Scripture, pray, and ask God to enlighten you, to show you where he has been at work and present in your previous days through places, events, and people. Pause in your prayer and listen. Then, ask Him to illuminate your reading and speak to your group now. Notice, what may God be bringing to your group for discussion?

Next, as you can in your group, read aloud and slowly **Habakkuk 3**.

Now that you have prayed and read the Scripture, please see the following questions that may assist you in your discussion.

1. How is verse 2 related to the rest of this psalm-like prayer? How is verse 2 related to the promise of 2:2-4? How are wrath and mercy related?
2. How does reciting God’s marvelous deeds in the past anticipate God’s future deliverance “in our day” (v 2)?
3. Compare verses 8-10 with Psalms 74:12-17 and 77:16-19. What similar images do these prayers use to evoke awe for God’s mighty works? What other images (from nature, warfare or whatever) have a similar impact on you?
4. What is Habakkuk’s response to the poetic and dramatic vision of verses 3-15? Why is his heart racing? What evidence does he have for rejoicing? How does he get his sure-footed confidence?
5. What does Habakkuk’s irrepressible joy (vv 17-19) mean in the context of injustice (1:2-4)? Of God’s use of wicked Babylon (1:12-17)? Of expectation (2:2-4)?
6. This hymn-like chapter stirred up vivid memories in Israel of God’s might and mercy. When has God worked mightily and mercifully in your past? In your present, where do you desire God to renew his mercy and work mightily again?
7. What new meaning would Habakkuk bring to the belief “It’s always darkest before the dawn”? In what area of your life is God’s power dawning? Where are you still waiting in the twilight for the sun to rise?

Prayer:

Once again, spend plenty of time to gather the reflections and insights that have come from your study, and turn them into a time of request and praise. Pray together verse 19 - for His strength and perspective, in Jesus’ name, amen.

*The discussion questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).