

**BEFORE THE SESSION:**

- Pray for each of your group members by name
- Look over the questions on the right and choose the ones that are most appropriate for your small group. If you're really feeling motivated, you might even think of a few on your own.
- Think through how you might prompt your group a little if they have difficulty getting started in discussion.
- Take a look at the accountability question below. Lead members to gather one on one or in same sex clusters to discuss it over coffee this week.

**THIS WEEK'S BIG IDEA**

God's Word contains all the answers to our questions.

**ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTION**

What are you doing right now to strengthen your relationship with God, even in the middle of a stressful situation?

**TO PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK:**

Read Lamentations 3-5; Ezekiel 1-20;

**AS YOU READ...**

...Think about what God's plan is for your life.

**CONNECT****(10 min.)**

Choose one or both of the following questions to begin your time together as a group.

1. **What's the funniest or most awkward question a child has asked you?**
2. **If you could approach God with one question and know he would answer you directly, what would you ask?**

**EXPLORE****(40 min.)**

Say something like, "Scripture is amazing because it includes real people dealing with the same issues we face today. Habakkuk, like us, had several questions for God and needed real answers".

3. **If you were in worship this week, what statement or experience stood out to you? What stood out during last week's reading?**

**(Leader:** Take some time to discuss any questions that may have arisen as your members read through this week's assigned reading.)

4. **Read Habakkuk 1:1-4, 13. What is Habakkuk's complaint against God? What emotions do you suspect he felt as he spoke these words?**
5. **Read Habakkuk 2:2-3, 9-14. What answer does God give Habakkuk? How does verse 14 indicate God's ultimate goal? How does God's answer in these verses comfort Habakkuk, and how does it comfort you?**
6. **Read 3:2-11. Notice that Habakkuk lists several striking characteristics of God's power on behalf of his people. Which descriptions stood out to you the most and why? How does worshipping God change our perspective of trials?**
7. **How does it encourage you to know that Habakkuk had the freedom to ask God his questions? What does this reveal about the kind of relationship God wants to have with us? Why does the enemy want us to think God is far away from us when we suffer?**

**TRANSFORM****(10 min.)**

Wrap up your time by recalling a few things from your meeting that stood out to you. Then, ask the following question and pray together.

9. **Heartache and pain are part of what it means to be human. As believers, however, we have the power to walk through the middle of suffering with total joy, peace, and genuine hope. As followers of Christ, how is it possible to have joy in the middle of sorrow? How does this joy show God's glory to a lost world? Specifically this week, how can you experience hope in the middle of a stressful situation at home, work, etc.?**

# This Week's Study Notes:

## Scripture Notes

Habakkuk is a man of God who sees injustice but doesn't see God doing anything about it. He cries out to God, asking why He seems to tolerate evil. God reminds Habakkuk that He's in charge. He explains that He will use Babylon – a wicked nation – to discipline the people of Judah. God tells Habakkuk that He is well aware of the evil that is being committed and that justice will come. Habakkuk finds comfort that God will not utterly destroy His people but will refine them through pain and discipline (Judah was rebellious against God, though He had given them literally decades to repent).

Eventually, Habakkuk is reminded of God's love for Judah. Habakkuk worships God and recounts his amazing acts on behalf of His children. Habakkuk is so overwhelmed after encountering God's presence, that he is actually physically weak, but his confidence is restored. His patience is renewed, and he is content and even "joyful" to wait for the day that the Lord would be victorious over Judah's enemies once again.

## Leader Tips

### AS YOU READ THIS WEEK...

- Think about and pray for each member of your small group.
- Think through the following questions:
  1. Whom does God bring to mind as I read these verses? Why?
  2. What needs to change in my own life as a result of what I'm reading?
  3. Whom do I need to tell about these verses?

### FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY WE RECOMMEND...

- Bible Commentary: [Bible.org](http://Bible.org)
- Bible Commentary: [DesiringGod.org](http://DesiringGod.org)
- Pronouncing Biblical Words: [Netministries.org/Bbasics/bwords.htm](http://Netministries.org/Bbasics/bwords.htm)

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