



Your story matters.



HOPE IN THE DARK

# PRAISING IN THE DARK

PASTOR TOM LUNDEEN OCT. 18, 2020

MYRC.CHURCH



# “Praising in the Dark”

*Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor*

## MESSAGE NOTES

...there’s an abundance of \_\_\_\_\_ and shortage of hope.

Note [Habakkuk 1:2-4](#)

What I hope we’ve all been learning together is that having *hope in the dark* isn’t some religious \_\_\_\_\_ ...or some \_\_\_\_\_ feeling.

Biblical hope is something more \_\_\_\_\_ and real life empowered by God’s truth and Spirit.

So what’s the \_\_\_\_\_ between having hope in the dark and praising in the dark?

### 1. Embrace 3 \_\_\_\_\_ -Filled Words (note [Habakkuk 2:20](#))

In an extraordinarily broken world filled with people who have all \_\_\_\_\_ for sin and brokenness, God still rules and reigns...(note [Romans 8:28](#); [Psalm 46:10](#)).

Note [Habakkuk 3:1](#) = \_\_\_\_\_ (it is believed this word is used to describe how to sing/Psalm)...

### 2. \_\_\_\_\_...Like You Really Mean It!

*Shigionoth* = to sing with strong emotion, \_\_\_\_\_, high-spirited praise, vigorous enthusiasm (Groeschel).

It’s \_\_\_\_\_ punctuated with exclamation marks!

This is one reason why we are told to offer God a \_\_\_\_\_ of praise (note [Hebrews 13:15](#)).

While I believe all heartfelt and sincere worship is pleasing to God, I also believe passionate and enthusiastic worship that we offer to God when we are in the \_\_\_\_\_ of life has a special place in His heart.

### 3. We Focus on \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_

Habakkuk's circumstances didn't change.

He looks at the real situation and doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ it, deny it, or fake it.

He \_\_\_\_\_ the truth in the face and acknowledges it (note [Habakkuk 3:17](#)).

Note [Habakkuk 2:20](#)

His focus is no longer just on the \_\_\_\_\_...it's now on not what he wants God \_\_\_\_\_, but who God really is (note [Habakkuk 3:18](#)).

He \_\_\_\_\_ before the provision.

He discovers that \_\_\_\_\_ no matter what circumstances may be, or how dark it may appear (note [Habakkuk 3:19](#)).

*Finding hope in the dark:*

- God will take us to a \_\_\_\_\_ place.
- On the mountaintops I praise God for what He \_\_\_\_\_/is doing.
- In the valleys I praise Him for who He \_\_\_\_\_...in the valleys I get to know God more \_\_\_\_\_.
- He is still wrestling.
- But he is now landing by \_\_\_\_\_ who God is, and that's what gives him genuine hope in the dark (note [Habakkuk 3:18-19](#)).

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital or in person).



Your group matters.

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

*Icebreaker:* Finish this sentence: It wouldn't be fall without \_\_\_\_\_.

1. In what ways have you been challenged and encouraged as you've been reading through *Hope in the Dark*?
2. Pastor Tom reminded us that although we have all "tested positive for sin and brokenness, God still rules and reigns..." Read [Habakkuk 2:20](#), [Romans 8:28](#) and [Psalm 46:10](#). How does God's rule and reign help us gain perspective in the dark times of our lives?
3. How does Habakkuk's focus change and what does this mean for him (see [Habakkuk 3:17-19](#))?
4. [Hebrews 13:15](#) teaches us that our praise is to be constant/continuous. Who is someone you know who seems to trust God no matter what they're facing? What do you think is different about them?
5. Have one person read Kyle's *Poem* found on pages 149-150 in *Hope in the Dark*. (If you don't have your book handy, you can read it at [myRC.link/KylesPoem](#).) Now have someone begin at the last line and read backward to the first line. While God doesn't change, our perspective does. How does praising God influence your perspective?
6. Have you grown in your ability to both wrestle and embrace God? What other insights have you gained during this journey?
7. Share 3 things you are grateful to God for, then spend time thanking and praising God for His goodness and faithfulness as you close together in prayer.

### ***Hope in the Dark—Week of October 18:***

- Read 3.4 *Hope through Conclusion: When You Question and Believe* (pages 139-158)
- Questions for Reflection: 3.4—*Conclusion* (pages 169-171)

## PERSONAL GUIDE



# “Praising in the Dark”

*Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor*

## MESSAGE NOTES

...there's an abundance of darkness and shortage of hope.

Note [Habakkuk 1:2-4](#)

What I hope we've all been learning together is that having *hope in the dark* isn't some religious cliché...or some nebulous feeling.

Biblical hope is something more tangible and real life empowered by God's truth and Spirit.

So what's the connection between having hope in the dark and praising in the dark?

### 1. Embrace 3 Hope-Filled Words (note [Habakkuk 2:20](#))

In an extraordinarily broken world filled with people who have all tested positive for sin and brokenness, God still rules and reigns...(note [Romans 8:28](#); [Psalm 46:10](#)).

Note [Habakkuk 3:1](#) = shigionoth (it is believed this word is used to describe how to sing a song/Psalm)...

### 2. Sing...Like You Really Mean It!

*Shigionoth* = to sing with strong emotion, passion, high-spirited praise, vigorous enthusiasm (Groeschel).

*It's praise punctuated with exclamation marks!*

This is one reason why we are told to offer God a sacrifice of praise (note [Hebrews 13:15](#)).

While I believe all heartfelt and sincere worship is pleasing to God, I also believe passionate and enthusiastic worship that we offer to God when we are in the dark chapters of life has a special place in His heart.

### 3. We Focus on Who, not What

Habakkuk's circumstances didn't change.

He looks at the real situation and doesn't sugarcoat it, deny it, or fake it.

He stares the truth in the face and acknowledges it (note [Habakkuk 3:17](#)).

Note [Habakkuk 2:20](#)

His focus is no longer just on the darkness...it's now on not what he wants God to do, but who God really is (note [Habakkuk 3:18](#)).

He praises before the provision.

He discovers that God is God no matter what circumstances may be, or how dark it may appear (note [Habakkuk 3:19](#)).

*Finding hope in the dark:*

- God will take us to a new place.
- On the mountaintops I praise God for what He does/is doing.
- In the valleys I praise Him for who He is...in the valleys I get to know God more intimately.
- He is still wrestling.
- But he is now landing by embracing who God is, and that's what gives him genuine hope in the dark (note [Habakkuk 3:18-19](#)).

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital or in person).



**SMALL GROUP**  
guide on the back