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CHURCH

Your *story* matters.

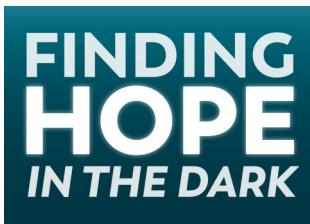


HOPE IN THE DARK

WALKING IN THE DARK

PASTOR TOM LUNDEEN OCT. 11, 2020

MYRC.CHURCH



“Walking in the Dark”

Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor

MESSAGE NOTES

...since last March, there have been a lot of _____ and a shortage of hope for many people.

Unlike most prophets who speak for God to His people, Habakkuk is speaking _____ on behalf of His people, and his message and questions to God reflect this tension of wanting to embrace God, but because what he’s seeing/hearing doesn’t mesh with what he believes, he’s _____ with God (note [Habakkuk 1:2-3](#)).

One of the stark realities of life that we have to come to grips with is that a lot of chapters of life include taking a lot of _____ in the dark.

1. Much of Life _____ Walking in the Dark at Times.

We really don’t _____ much, including most things that matter most. _____ in God through Jesus Christ is what helps us navigate times when it’s dark and we can’t see (note [Hebrews 11:1](#)).

It’s not an accident/coincidence that the Scriptures tell us this world (and our lives apart from God) are described as *darkness*, while God is described as _____. (note [1 John 1:5](#)).

Note [John 8:12](#)

So much of life is not _____.

2. How Does God Help Us _____ to Walk in the Dark?

Walking in the dark is so much _____ when you recognize you don't have to walk in the dark _____.

- A. Remember that God is still there (note [Habakkuk 2:20](#)) - whether you see the _____ you're looking for when you need hope in the dark, the spiritual reality is that the Lord is in His holy temple, and He's not _____ or surprised by the darkness we may be groping around in today.
- B. Remember who _____ (note [Habakkuk 3:2](#); [Psalm 119:55a](#); [1 Chronicles 16:12](#)).
- C. Take a _____ towards God despite how dark it appears to be—this means _____ our Bibles (note [Psalm 119:105](#))...worshipping Him despite our _____...following/_____ Him even without seeing what we want to see (note [Isaiah 50:10](#); [Psalm 107:13-14](#)).
- D. No matter how dark our days/seasons may be, know that God sees us clearly and will _____ us by His hand (note [Isaiah 41:10, 13](#); [Psalm 73:23](#)). No matter how dark it _____ to us, it isn't dark at all to God (note [Psalm 139:7-12](#)).

Finding hope in the dark:

- We can experience hope in the dark by learning we can, by God's grace, power, and presence, walk in times in our lives when it all seems dark and the path seems unclear and next step _____
- Note [Lamentations 3:21-24](#)
- _____ to God today...even if there's more darkness than light in your life right now...

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



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Icebreaker: There's plenty of not so nice things around us, so what's one really good thing from your past week that you can share with your group?

1. Read [Hebrews 11:1](#). What are some of the things that make up “dark” in your life, that obscure maybe not your next step, but the one after that?
2. Pastor Tom said, “So much of life is not well-lit.” After reading [John 8:12](#), discuss the difference between walking in the darkness of not following Jesus versus darkness because God hasn't revealed that next step just yet.
3. “Walking in the dark is so much easier when you recognize you don't have to walk in the dark alone.” How have you experienced this truth in your life?

How do we make walking in the dark easier?

4. Read [Habakkuk 2:20](#). How does the fact that God is still there make walking in the dark easier?
5. Read [Psalm 118:1](#), [121:2](#) & [123:1](#). Does remembering who God is make walking in the dark easier for you? If so, what are some ways that you keep God's identity clear in your mind day to day?
6. We have to step toward God despite the darkness. How do [Psalm 119:105](#), [Isaiah 50:10](#) and [Psalm 107:13-14](#) shed light on how to take those steps?
7. Read [Isaiah 41:10, 13](#). What would your life this week look like if you weren't afraid or discouraged but instead were held up by God's victorious right hand? What could possibly stop you from having this kind of week as a child of God?

*If you are still in the darkness without Jesus, would you like to say your own **YES!** to Him now and allow Him to bring light into your world?*

Hope in the Dark—Week of October 11:

- Read *3.1 Remember through 3.3 Trust* (pages 117-137)
- Questions for Reflection: *3.1-3.3* (pages 166-169)

PERSONAL GUIDE



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Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor

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Unlike most prophets who speak for God to His people, Habakkuk is speaking to God on behalf of His people, and his message and questions to God reflect this tension of wanting to embrace God, but because what he’s seeing/hearing doesn’t mesh with what he believes, he’s wrestling with God (note Habakkuk 1:2-3).

One of the stark realities of life that we have to come to grips with is that a lot of chapters of life include taking a lot of steps in the dark.

1. Much of Life Requires Walking in the Dark at Times.

We really don’t control much, including most things that matter most.

Faith in God through Jesus Christ is what helps us navigate times when it’s dark and we can’t see (note Hebrews 11:1).

It’s not an accident/coincidence that the Scriptures tell us this world (and our lives apart from God) are described as *darkness*, while God is described as light. (note 1 John 1:5).

Note John 8:12

So much of life is not well-lit.

2. How Does God Help Us Learn to Walk in the Dark?

Walking in the dark is so much easier when you recognize you don't have to walk in the dark alone.

- A. Remember that God is still there (note [Habakkuk 2:20](#)) - whether you see the evidence you're looking for when you need hope in the dark, the spiritual reality is that the Lord is in His holy temple, and He's not flummoxed or surprised by the darkness we may be groping around in today.
- B. Remember who God is (note [Habakkuk 3:2](#); [Psalm 119:55a](#); [1 Chronicles 16:12](#)).
- C. Take a next step towards God despite how dark it appears to be—this means opening our Bibles (note [Psalm 119:105](#))...worshipping Him despite our feelings...following/obeying Him even without seeing what we want to see (note [Isaiah 50:10](#); [Psalm 107:13-14](#)).
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- Reach out to God today...even if there's more darkness than light in your life right now...

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