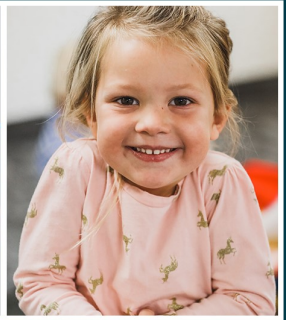




RIVERSIDE
CHURCH

Your story matters.

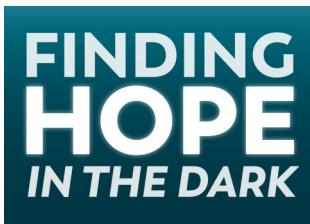


HOPE IN THE DARK

WAITING IN THE DARK

PASTOR TOM LUNDEEN OCT. 4, 2020

MYRC.CHURCH



“Waiting in the Dark”

Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor

MESSAGE NOTES

The past 7 months have been filled with a lot of darkness and a shortage of _____

Unlike most _____ 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 doesn’t _____ with what he believes, he’s wrestling with God.

Wondering and listening in the dark is challenging...but waiting in the dark is really _____

Note [Habakkuk 2:3](#)

1. Why Does God Push “_____” at Times in Our Lives?

Waiting can be such a turbulent time in our life because we don’t always know what the _____ is.

When God pushes “pause” in our lives, it is always to accomplish His _____

2. God’s _____ Always Include *Pauses*

Note [Galatians 1-2](#); [Acts 16](#); [Revelation 1:9](#); [John 2:4](#); [7:30](#)

But God’s *pauses* are never _____ (note [Habakkuk 2:3](#)).

Appointed time = “moaid” (Hebrew) = *perfect*, _____ *timing of God*.

You can't _____ it and you can't stop it.

Waiting doesn't mean doing nothing. Waiting means not going outside of God as we do something. (Evans)

3. When I'm in God's _____ Room...

- A. Know God always has the _____ and will accomplish His plans (note [Habakkuk 2:4a](#); note the 5 _____ in chapter 2).

And because God is always good and right in all He does, even when we don't understand His plans, we have the choice:

- B. To _____ Him (note [Habakkuk 2:4b](#)—along with [Romans 1:17](#); [Galatians 3:11](#); [Hebrews 10:38](#)) - my faith is to be based on the _____ and goodness and nature of God...even when things aren't happening the way I want and there seems more _____ than light.

Finding hope in the dark:

- Habakkuk doesn't get what God is doing.
- But as he _____ in the dark, he reminds himself of such an important truth (note [Habakkuk 2:20](#)).
- So even when I don't see what I want to see, because of God's _____, I will choose to walk by faith.
- I will follow Him and worship Him before I see Him _____.

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

SG

Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

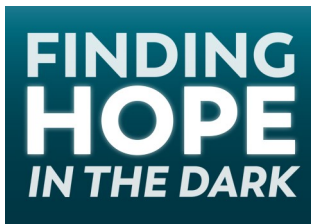
Icebreaker: What one skill or talent would you like to get better at, and, if given the chance to be a “professional” at this skill, would you choose to do so?

1. What encouraged or challenged you in your reading this week (*Wait 2.3 - “Faith Tested” 2.5*)?
2. Waiting in the dark is “really hard”, Pastor Tom explained, “because we don’t always know what the timeline is.” Read [Habakkuk 2:3](#). How can we be confident in the waiting despite not knowing our timeline?
3. Pastor Tom indicated, “When God pushes ‘pause’ in our lives, it is always to accomplish His purposes.” Describe a time you experienced this truth.
4. Read [Habakkuk 2:3](#), [John 2:4](#); [7:30](#) and [Revelation 1:9](#). How did Habakkuk, Jesus, Paul and John experience the “pauses” of God’s timeline in their lives?
5. Have you ever tried to force or stop God’s “unstoppable timing?” What was the outcome?
6. Read the 5 woes found in [Habakkuk 2](#) (verses 6b, 9, 12, 15 and 19). How does knowing God has the last word and will accomplish His plans influence our response to being in God’s waiting room?
7. Read [Habakkuk 2:4b](#), [Romans 1:17](#), [Galatians 3:11](#) and [Hebrews 10:38](#). Pastor Tom reminded us that our faith needs to be based on the “character and goodness and nature of God...even when things aren’t happening the way I want and there seems to be more darkness than light.” If you are not currently in God’s waiting room, you know someone who is, or will be soon. How will you allow God’s character, goodness and nature impact your ability to be in the waiting room, or help another as they wait?

Hope in the Dark—Week of October 4, 2020:

- Read 2.3 *Wait* through 2.5 “*Faith Tested*” (pages 93-113)
- Questions for Reflection: 2.3-2.5 (pages 165-166)

PERSONAL GUIDE



“Waiting in the Dark”

Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor

MESSAGE NOTES

The past 7 months have been filled with a lot of darkness and a shortage of hope.

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 doesn’t mesh with what he believes, he’s wrestling with God.

Wondering and listening in the dark is challenging...but waiting in the dark is really hard.

Note [Habakkuk 2:3](#)

1. Why Does God Push “Pause” at Times in Our Lives?

Waiting can be such a turbulent time in our life because we don’t always know what the timeline is.

When God pushes “pause” in our lives, it is always to accomplish His purposes.

2. God’s Timelines Always Include *Pauses*

Note [Galatians 1-2](#); [Acts 16](#); [Revelation 1:9](#); [John 2:4](#); [7:30](#)

But God’s *pauses* are never permanent (note [Habakkuk 2:3](#)).

Appointed time = “moaid” (Hebrew) = *perfect, unstoppable timing of God.*

You can’t force it and you can’t stop it.

Waiting doesn't mean doing nothing. Waiting means not going outside of God as we do something. (Evans)

3. When I'm in God's Waiting Room...

- A. Know God always has the last word and will accomplish His plans (note Habakkuk 2:4a; note the 5 woes in chapter 2).

And because God is always good and right in all He does, even when we don't understand His plans, we have the choice:

- B. To trust Him (note Habakkuk 2:4b—along with Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38) - my faith is to be based on the character and goodness and nature of God...even when things aren't happening the way I want and there seems more darkness than light.

Finding hope in the dark:

- Habakkuk doesn't get what God is doing.
- But as he waits in the dark, he reminds himself of such an important truth (note Habakkuk 2:20).
- So even when I don't see what I want to see, because of God's faithfulness, I will choose to walk by faith.
- I will follow Him and worship Him before I see Him move.

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