



Your story matters.



HOPE IN THE DARK

WONDERING IN THE DARK

PASTOR TOM LUNDEEN SEPT. 20, 2020

MYRC.CHURCH



“Wondering in the Dark”

Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor

MESSAGE NOTES

As we’ve been walking through the last 6 months, there’s been plenty of dark times, and lots of need for and shortage of _____

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 _____ of wanting to embrace God, but because what he sees doesn’t reflect what he believes, he’s _____ with God (note [Habakkuk 1:2-3](#)).

Last Sunday we saw:

1. Why Doesn’t Good Seem Fair?
2. What are Habakkuk’s Issues With God?
 - A. It doesn’t seem like You care.
 - B. You don’t seem to be doing what You could do.
3. If I Was God, I’d Do Things _____

Note [Psalm 130:1, 13:2, 10:1, Jeremiah 15:18, Lamentations 3:1-3, 7-9, 16-18, Ecclesiastes 1:12-14, Job 21:4, 23:3-4, 16-17](#)

...when we reach the place where we think that if we were God, we could do a _____, we’re going to usually take one of two pathways:

- Too scared to run from God or voice questions, so we pretend/_____ (only effective temporarily).
- *I tried God, church, the Bible, and they didn’t work like I thought, so I’m out—_____ from God/faith.*

There’s a 3rd option:

In the middle of the pain and confusion, wrestle and _____

But this doesn’t mean that everything _____ turns around and becomes wonderful.

4. When God's _____ Isn't What We Asked For

Note [Habakkuk 1:2, 5](#)

God's answer must have been so disappointing and _____
(note [Habakkuk 1:6-7, 9-11](#)).

So what does Habakkuk _____?

He embraces God and _____ with Him (note [Habakkuk 1:12-13](#)).

We live in a world devastated by sin and _____ in so many ways,
surrounded by people (including ourselves) with spiritually defective DNA. The
odds of bad things happening are _____%.

Finding hope in the dark:

When we hit the wall and experience a crisis of faith:

- Don't deny and pretend that everything is okay (_____ it 'til you make it doesn't work).
- God understands your _____
- God welcomes your questions (He would rather have you _____ at Him than walk away from Him).
- As a follower of Jesus it is possible and preferable to wrestle with God with our _____ questions and also embrace a genuine trust in God.

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). And you can still take the next step to fully engage in this all-church spiritual journey (get a book, small group materials, and connect in a small group)!

Still need a group? Go to myRC.church/GroupLink to join one TODAY! Need help? The Small Groups Team is in the Café area to assist you.



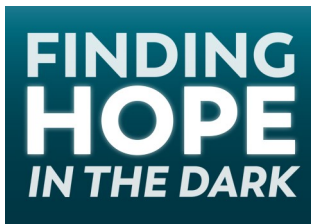
SMALL GROUP
guide on the back

Icebreaker: You're stuck in traffic, what do you do: drum on the steering wheel w/the radio while you people watch, or fret and fume at all the *other ignorant* drivers around you? (Bonus points for being willing to say out loud what brings the end of construction season in MN.)

1. Take some time to discuss what impacted you from this week's reading in *Hope in the Dark* (sections 1.3-1.5).
2. Read [Job 23:3-4, 16-17](#). How would you lay out your case before God if you could stand in front of Him?
3. Which option (pretend/deny or walk away from God/faith) has been one you've chosen when confronted with hard things that don't make sense in your life and how did that play out?
4. Read [Habakkuk 1:6-11](#). How do you feel and respond when God's answer to your cries for help seem to echo those found in His response to Habakkuk?
5. Read [Habakkuk 1:12-13](#). How can Habakkuk's words help you make the switch from pretending and denying or walking away from God to embracing and wrestling with Him about hard things you've experienced in the past or are experiencing right now.
6. What questions have you been hesitant to ask God? Will you take the step of having a hard conversation with God this week and doing some wrestling and embracing?

Hope in the Dark—Week of September 20:

- Read [1.3 Why Aren't You Doing Something?](#) through [1.5 Crisis of Belief](#) (pages 43-66)
- Questions for Reflection: [1.3-1.5](#) (pages 161-163)



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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 sees doesn’t reflect what he believes, he’s wrestling with God (note Habakkuk 1:2-3).

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2. What are Habakkuk’s Issues With God?
 - A. It doesn’t seem like You care.
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3. If I Was God, I’d Do Things Differently

Note Psalm 130:1; 13:2; 10:1; Jeremiah 15:18; Lamentations 3:1-3, 7-9, 16-18; Ecclesiastes 1:12-14; Job 21:4; 23:3-4, 16-17

...when we reach the place where we think that if we were God, we could do a better job, we’re going to usually take one of two pathways:

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- *I tried God, church, the Bible, and they didn’t work like I thought, so I’m out—walk away from God/faith.*

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But this doesn’t mean that everything immediately turns around and becomes wonderful.

4. When God's Answer Isn't What We Asked For

Note [Habakkuk 1:2, 5](#)

God's answer must have been so disappointing and jaw-dropping (note [Habakkuk 1:6-7, 9-11](#)).

So what does Habakkuk do?

He embraces God and wrestles with Him (note [Habakkuk 1:12-13](#)).

We live in a world devastated by sin and broken in so many ways, surrounded by people (including ourselves) with spiritually defective DNA. The odds of bad things happening are 100%.

Finding hope in the dark:

When we hit the wall and experience a crisis of faith:

- Don't deny and pretend that everything is okay (fake it 'til you make it doesn't work).
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- God welcomes your questions (He would rather have you yell at Him than walk away from Him).
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