



RIVERSIDE
CHURCH

Your *story* matters.



HOPE IN THE DARK

STRUGGLING IN THE DARK

PASTOR TOM LUNDEEN SEPT. 13, 2020

MYRC.CHURCH



“Struggling 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 _____ of hope.

Habakkuk is very frustrated, confused, angry, _____ and perplexed; and he starts asking a question that people have been asking God throughout human history:

1. Why Doesn’t Good Seem _____?

Habakkuk = “to _____” or “to _____”.

He wants to embrace God, but what he sees isn’t _____ with what he believes, so he’s wrestling with God.

Note [Habakkuk 1:1](#) = *vision, prophecy = utterance, burden, _____*

Note [Habakkuk 1:2-3](#)

His _____ is the same wrestle in the 21st century...

Note [Habakkuk 1:3-4](#)

When it comes right down to it, he is saying to God: *I don’t think You’re doing what’s _____*

2. What are Habakkuk’s _____ With God?

A. It doesn’t seem like You _____

B. You don’t seem to be doing what You _____— You have the _____. Where is it? [Note John 11:1-7, 11-15, 17-21, 22, 28-32, 23-24, 25-26.](#)

Finding hope in the dark:

- So in _____ of life, does the end of the story end like Lazarus' story?
- No, not even for great _____ of faith sometimes (note [Hebrews 11:35-40](#)).
- God wants to invite us to be like Habakkuk, to embrace God even as we wrestle with Him and the tough questions and _____ of life.

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 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)!



SMALL GROUP
guide on the back



Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

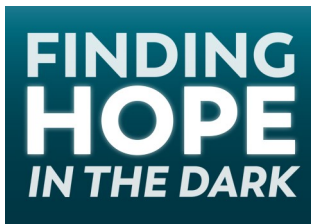
Icebreaker: What's the most encouraging thing you personally experienced in the past week?

1. Describe a time when you've felt frustrated, confused, angry, baffled or perplexed. What was your impression of the fairness of God during that time?
2. Read [Habakkuk 1:1-4](#). What parallels can you find between the prophet's words and your conversations with God lately?
3. How do you reconcile the infallibility (the inability to be wrong) of God with basically saying to God, as Pastor Tom put it, "I don't think You're doing what's right."?
4. Are Habakkuk's issues with God your issues as well?
 - a) "God, do you even care?"
 - b) "You don't seem to be doing what you could do-You have the power. Where is it?"
5. Read the story of Jesus and Lazarus in [John 11:1-32](#). How does this account feel like some of your experiences with God?
 - a) Have one person recap the end of the story for the group and talk about times when Jesus has answered in a way that made sense to your way of thinking/praying.
6. What does your current wrestling match with God look like? How can we help you embrace God even as you grapple with Him?

Hope in the Dark—Week of September 13:

- Read *A Letter to the Reader* through 1.2 *Why Don't you Care?* (pages 9-42)
- Questions for Reflection: *Introduction—1.2* (pages 159-161)

PERSONAL GUIDE



“Struggling 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 hope.

Habakkuk is very frustrated, confused, angry, baffled and perplexed; and he starts asking a question that people have been asking God throughout human history:

1. Why Doesn’t Good Seem Fair?

Habakkuk = “to embrace” or “to wrestle”.

He wants to embrace God, but what he sees isn’t lining up with what he believes, so he’s wrestling with God.

Note Habakkuk 1:1 = vision, prophecy = utterance, burden, doom.

Note Habakkuk 1:2-3

His wrestle is the same wrestle in the 21st century...

Note Habakkuk 1:3-4

When it comes right down to it, he is saying to God: *I don’t think You’re doing what’s right.*

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— You have the power. Where is it? Note John 11:1-7, 11-15, 17-21, 22, 28-32, 23-24, 25 -26.

Finding hope in the dark:

- So in every situation of life, does the end of the story end like Lazarus' story?
- No, not even for great heroes of faith sometimes (note [Hebrews 11:35-40](#)).
- God wants to invite us to be like Habakkuk, to embrace God even as we wrestle with Him and the tough questions and experiences of life.

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 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)!



SMALL GROUP
guide on the back