

Workshop Session 1

Habakkuk and Hope



Helen Thorne-Allenson

Introducing our workshop

- Habakkuk - not an exposition but exploration
- Interactive, skills-based
- Each session offering
 - A truth
 - A skill
 - A resource



Introducing Habakkuk

- Life in the land as it was supposed to be (Deuteronomy 30)
- Life in the land as it was (2 Kings 23-24)
- Habakkuk – a quick overview

Introducing suffering

- The questions of those who suffer
- The limits of our answers

Introducing Matt and Michaela

Matt and Michaela are a young couple in your congregation. They have come to you, as their small group leader, because of their deep struggles with anxiety. They fear the climate crisis they see. They fear political unrest. They fear for their own futures – will they ever be able to afford a home, live sustainably and bring up children in this world? Will they ever be able to rest at night again? Will there ever be peace, hope, justice and financial ease? Does God even care?

Introducing Matt and Michaela

- What is your instant reaction towards the prospect of helping Matt and Michaela?
- What will you need to attend to in your own heart?

We are going to begin by helping Matt and Michaela wrestle with the brokenness of this world but also turn to the Lord in their pain

Truth 1: The world is broken ...

Exploring the passage as we would with Matt and Michaela

Read Habakkuk 1:1-4

- What problems is Habakkuk articulating?

Truth 1:

The world is broken ... but God hears

Read Habakkuk 1:1-4

- What assumptions about God's nature is Habakkuk making?
- What conflict does Habakkuk see between God's nature and the world around him?
- What do you notice about how Habakkuk speaks with God?
- Why might you find it hard to speak as Habakkuk speaks?

Skill 1:

Articulating dissonance

There can be internal and external pressures to compartmentalise faith and pain

- Some rage as if God is absent or inactive
- Some suppress as if God does not care or want to hear

We have already shown that it is OK to be confused and OK to speak in real and raw ways. But how do we help Matt and Michaela to actually lament?

Skill 1:

Articulating dissonance

- How do we help people differentiate between articulation of confusion and accusation of God?
- How might we create a safe space for this kind of expression?
- How might we anticipate our own heart will be touched as Matt and Michaela pour out their heart?

Skill 1:

Articulating dissonance

What elements of lament can you see in Habakkuk 1:1-4?

- Call
- Complain
- Ask
- Commit

How might you use this passage to help Matt & Michaela lament?

Resource 1: Journaling sheets

At a later date, practise your own lamenting using the simple journaling sheets provided. You can, of course, make your own using other words of Scripture.