

# Workshop Session 2

# Habakkuk and Hope



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# Recap

- This world is broken but God hears
- He invites us to articulate the dissonance we experience
- We can help those we walk alongside to lament

## Truth 2:

# We want our circumstances to change quickly but God invites us to wait

- The normal human heart is impatient
- The normal Christian life is one of waiting
- Waiting is not passive
  - Active in continued lament – lament that deepens as pain deepens
  - Active in trust - trust that anticipates God's action
  - But not active in trying to be our own saviours



Habakkuk's next section shows us much about deepening pain and God-centred trust

# Truth 2:

## We want our circumstances to change quickly but God invites us to wait

Read Habakkuk 1:5-17

- What "hope" does God give Habakkuk? (v5-11)
- How does he describe the Babylonians?
- In what ways might this seem like vain hope?
- How might you have responded to this kind of news? (v12-17)
- What do you notice about how Habakkuk responds? What do you notice about the tone of his ongoing lament?

# Truth 2:

## We want our circumstances to change quickly but God invites us to wait

Lament enables us to wait

Read Habakkuk 2:1

- Habakkuk is convinced God will act even in his pain and confusion. What do you notice about how he is resolving to wait for the Lord?
- How is this different to how you are waiting? (NB Matt and Michaela might be paralysed with fear – or they might be over-active in eco projects trying to save the world)

# Skill 2:

## Reframing the pain

- Habakkuk is not doing a knee jerk reaction / rushing around
- He is not turning in on himself
- He is taking his pain and his confusion, and actively turning to the Lord in continued lament, and active trust

How can we help people like Matt and Michaela to do the same?

# Skill 2:

## Reframing the pain

Maybe we might ask questions like these (you can role play them if you want – and add your own questions):

- How are you responding to God in the pain?
- Whilst understandable, are your responses leading to patient or impatient waiting on the Lord?
- Who is God in this situation?
- How can you use this understanding of God to help you wait differently?

And then we might look at some of their specific worries



# Skill 2:

## Reframing the pain

Imagine Matt and Michaela are saying things like:

- God is leaving his world to burn
- There is nothing we can do
- We've got to make this right
- Our finances will never get better

How might you use Habakkuk 2:1 to help them rephrase those sentences?

# Resource 2:

## Liturgies that reframe

- Liturgy – a private or corporate form of words – that lifts our eyes and softens our hearts can reinforce reframing
- We can write liturgy together or give as a gift
- You have an example of a liturgy
- See if you can write something similar that you might use with Matt and Michaela or someone you are walking alongside