

Workshop Session 3

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 and reframe as we wait for the Lord to speak and act

Truth 3: God is just – evil will not ultimately win

- In our waiting and our lamenting, there can come moments when we imagine God will not be victorious
- The wrongness of the world can seem overwhelmingly powerful
- Habakkuk was written in the Old Testament but he still points us to Christ, the ultimate victor over evil

Truth 3: God is just – evil will not ultimately win

Read Habakkuk 2:4

- Habakkuk reminds us there are 2 ways to live. What are those 2 ways?
- What is the outcome for the righteous one?
- Who is the righteous one?
- How does his righteousness help people like us? (see Romans 1:16-17)

Truth 3: God is just – evil will not ultimately win

We cannot beat evil, but we know someone who can!

Read Habakkuk 2:2-20

- What are the hallmarks of the unrighteous?
- What woes does God pronounce against the unrighteous? What do you notice about the punishment fitting the crimes?
- What does this show about God's justice? How does this speak into the injustice you are facing?
- Who can derail God's justice (v20)? Is there any chance that God will leave the injustice you face unaddressed?

Skill 3:

Engaging the imagination to bring hope

Imagination in conversational ministry is not about pursuing flights of fancy – it is about using our minds to see beyond our current experiences. Faith is assurance of what we cannot see (Hebrews 11:1)

We can help Matt and Michaela to think, pray, speak and act differently by helping them imagine God on his throne, bringing justice. We help them envisage what is true but doesn't feel true.

Skill 3:

Engaging the imagination to bring hope

Read Habakkuk 2:14 again

Imagine Matt and Michaela are continuing to believe that the political instability in the world is going to become increasingly crushing and they will inevitably be negatively impacted by it.

- Imagine the earth – with all its problems (be specific but not graphic here)
- Imagine the knowledge of God spreading to every part of the globe
- See the world swathed in God's glory – see God's glory flood across each country
- How are you praying for the world now? How do you feel about the future of the world? What hope is there for you now? How might you change how you speak of the world?

Skill 3:

Engaging the imagination to bring hope

- What other verses from Habakkuk 1-2 could you use in a similar way?
- Try sketching out a meditation to engage the imagination now

Resource 3:

Micro-devotions

- Matt and Michaela may well be finding it hard to engage with God's word. Most people in pain do. But without the word, none of us can see God's world as it truly is.
- Micro-devotions are a joy to write, a joy to share. You have an example based on Habakkuk 2:20. Can you share these with someone? Can you begin to write your own?