



# LIFEGROUPS

Series: Bad Times, Good God

Bible Focus: Habakkuk 1:1-17

Date: Nov. 5 & 6, 2016

—[ LET'S TALK ]—

- What is something that amazes you? Why?

—[ CHOOSE 1 SIDE ]—

—[ LET'S WARM UP ]—

- What do people expect of God when it comes to how He deals with them?
- Have you ever been angry with God? What happened afterwards?

—[ LET'S WARM UP ]—

- What do people usually do to cope with life during times of distress?
- How do you typically react when you face challenges outside of your control?

—[ LET'S DIG ]—

- Read Romans 9 and discuss God's ways and plans.
1. What effect does Romans 9 have on you? Does this give you peace, or leave you unsettled, etc.? What effect does Paul want it to have on his audience?
  2. What does Paul assume his audience believes about God?
  3. What does this mean for your expectations of God?
  4. How does this challenge your faith?

—[ LET'S DIG ]—

- Read Ruth 1:1-22, 4:13-17 and discuss trusting in God.
1. How did Naomi interpret the death of her husband and sons?
  2. Judging by Ruth's actions, how might have Ruth interpreted the situation?
  3. What happened in the end, and what is the significance of David's ancestry?
  4. How does the end of the story impact the way you interpret the pain Naomi and Ruth initially endured?

—[ LET'S ACT ]—

- Be prepared to be there for others. If a friend or loved one had something bad happen and was suffering, what would you do? Brainstorm with your LifeGroup or some trusted friends to establish a few "best practices" when it comes to supporting a suffering person. Also, identify three to five resources (websites, books, people, organizations, etc.) you could utilize to help you learn more about how to provide healthy support for someone in need.



—[ **SERMON REVIEW** ]—

- Extra scriptures referenced: [Acts 13:38-41]
- One of the biggest “why” questions in life is, “Why does God allow such bad things to happen in the world? Why doesn’t He do something about it?”
- The prophet Habakkuk asked the same question of God because of all the violence, injustice, wrongdoing, destruction, strife, conflict, etc. the Israelites were experiencing.
- God answers Habakkuk in an unusual way, essentially saying, “Just wait, things will get worse!”
- God knows we struggle with what appears to be His inactivity against evil, so He allows Habakkuk’s complaint to teach us something about Himself: His sovereign grace.
- God is showing His grace by bearing with our misunderstandings and doubts. God’s relationship with us is not dependent on our performance, on never questioning Him, or never being angry or disappointed with Him.
- In addition to saying things will get worse, God also tells Habakkuk that He has an unbelievable plan: That through the shifting of world powers, God would set the stage for the good news of Christ to spread throughout the earth! Paul identifies this plan of God’s in Acts 13.
- When we think we know more and better than God—when we look at life and it doesn’t make sense because it’s not how we would do it—that is when we get into trouble.
- Habakkuk wondered how a holy God was going to bring salvation out of injustice and evil, but he did not assume he knew better than God. Habakkuk trusted in God’s ways and plans.
- Although it was centuries later, the cross of Christ ultimately answered Habakkuk’s question because on the cross Christ absorbed all the evil and injustice.

—[ **NOTES** ]—

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