

“Faith Wrestles”

Habakkuk 1:1–11

7 November 2021

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Can you recall a time when you wrestled with God in prayer over a particular matter? What details can you share with your Group?

WORLDVIEW

2. Is it accurate to say that the church in South Africa has lost a theology of lament? What do you think has contributed to this? Are there ways we can recapture a healthy theology of lament?

INTO THE TEXT

3. Read Habakkuk’s prayer in the first four verses. Do you detect any scent of irreverence in the way he approached God? Was it appropriate for him to say the things he said and seemingly accuse God of the things he accused him of?

GOING DEEPER

4. Habakkuk wrestled with Yahweh’s seeming disinterest to the sin that so deeply burdened him. One evidence of God’s seeming disinterest was that Habakkuk’s prayers seemingly went ignored (v. 2). How do we process seemingly unanswered prayer in our lives? Is there a time to stop praying? If so, how do we know when that time has come.
5. A second evidence of Yahweh’s disinterest was his seeming approval of evil (v. 3). Habakkuk saw three categories of evil around him. Where do you see these categories in the church today?

“Injustice” (CSB) or “iniquity” (ESV) and “wrongdoing” (CSB) or “wrong” (ESV) describe the oppression of the underprivileged by the privileged in society.

“Oppression and violence” (CSB) or “destruction and violence” (ESV) describe violent and destructive turmoil.

“Strife” (CSB/ESV) and “conflict” (CSB) or “contention” (ESV) describe an overly litigious society.

6. A third evidence of Yahweh’s disinterest was the perversion of justice as God’s law proved ineffective. How could God’s law possibly prove ineffective? Does this contradict Isaiah 55:11, where God says that his word will not return to him empty?

7. Can the kingdom of God advance even when Christianity is not in a position of prominence? Support your answer biblically. Can you think of anecdotal evidence that further supports your answer?