

# When God Seems Gone

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## Connect Break the ice and get people talking

What is a situation that seemed like it would be bad, but then turned out good?

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## Truth Understand and discuss the scripture's meaning

**READ:** Habakkuk 3:1-19

The book of Habakkuk is a back and forth between Habakkuk asking God questions, and God answering those questions. Despite the news of a coming judgement, the end of the book is a worship song that Habakkuk writes about God. Even though God's answer wasn't what Habakkuk expected, he humbles himself and places his trust in the God of his salvation. There are four ways in particular that Habakkuk responds that we can apply to our own life.

### HABAKKUK HUMBLER HIMSELF

**READ:** Habakkuk 3:1-2

**DISCUSS:** Why do you think it can be difficult to let the Bible shape our view of God?

Habakkuk heard a report and had to humble himself to accept what that report was saying about who God was and about how to view the situation coming. This is something that can be hard to do in our own lives. Instead of the Bible being authoritative we treat it like a self-help book or we pick and choose the things in it that we like, but leave out the things that are harder to accept. A proper response to God however, is to humble ourselves and accept what the Bible has to say about our life and who God is.

### HABAKKUK REMEMBERS THE STORY

**READ:** Habakkuk 3:2-15

**DISCUSS:** Describe a time in your life when God helped you out in a tough situation.

Habakkuk had been focused on his current situation and how bad it seemed. In our own lives, when situations get tough we can lose sight of how faithful and good God is. In those moments, just like Habakkuk remembered how God brought the Israelite's out of Egypt, we must remind ourselves of how God brought us out of sin.

### HABAKKUK SUBMITS TO GOD

**READ:** Habakkuk 3:16

**DISCUSS:** What do you think it would look like in your own life to "quietly wait" for God's promises?

Throughout the book of Habakkuk we see him lamenting and asking crying out to God. However, after thinking though all ways God had taken care of him in the past, Habakkuk becomes quiet and just honors God. Habakkuk didn't just have a changing of his thoughts, his soul was completely changed. Instead of shutting God out, we must continue to go after God, until our view of him and our circumstances are shifted.

## HABAKKUK TAKES JOY IN THE LORD

**READ:** Habakkuk 3:17-19

**DISCUSS:** Why do people tend to push God away when life gets hard?

Habakkuk's vision of his situation didn't change until his vision of God changed. He had to see God for who he truly was instead of simply relying on who he thought God was. Once he saw God rightly, he could rejoice in how good God was instead of being focused on his circumstances. Just because God seems gone or distant in our lives doesn't mean he is. In the moments when life seems hard, instead of pushing God away, we have to take joy in who he is and draw near.

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### Grace See how the passage connects to Jesus

Just like the Israelites experienced God's provision and salvation in their lives when he delivered them out of Egypt, we have experienced God's salvation too. No matter how hard life gets the cross should put us at ease. Whatever difficult circumstances you may be experiencing now or in the future, that isn't your defining moment. Instead, because God saved us, we can look to spending eternity with our good and faithful Father.

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### Change Apply the passage to our thoughts, feelings, and actions

- Are there any ways the Bible describes God that you've been refusing to believe? What are they?
- What situations in your life make it hardest for you to quietly wait on God?
- What are some truths about God that will help you to be joyful in the tough moments of life?

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### Prayer Respond to the passage in prayer

- Pray that when God seems different than we expect him to be, that we would allow the word to redefine our vision of God.
- Pray that God would reveal more of himself to you so that you can have more joy.

#### DISCIPLESHIP CHECK-IN

- Have you read your Bible consistently the past week?
- Who is someone you're praying to share Jesus with this week, and what's one way you can love them well?