

# Bad Times Good God

NOVEMBER 5 - DECEMBER 4





# LIFEGROUPS

Series: Bad Times, Good God

Bible Focus: Habakkuk 2:1-4

Date: Nov. 12 & 13, 2016

—[ LET'S TALK ]—

- What is one of your biggest "pet peeves?"

—[ CHOOSE 1 SIDE ]—

—[ LET'S WARM UP ]—

- What is the difference between waiting and being patient?
- Do you consider yourself a patient person? Why or why not?

—[ LET'S WARM UP ]—

- Why do we write things down? Why is writing so important?
- How do you gain new perspectives on life circumstances or issues?

—[ LET'S DIG ]—

- Read Isaiah 40:27-31, Hebrews 10:32-39, and discuss patience.
  1. What does it take to have patience? What are some parallel qualities?
  2. What reasons does Isaiah identify to support "hope in the Lord?" What are the results?
  3. In Hebrews, how does confidence support patience? Where does that confidence come from?
  4. Why is patience so important?

—[ LET'S DIG ]—

- Read Joshua 1:1-11, Psalm 1, Matthew 7:24-27, and discuss gaining perspective from God's Word.
  1. As Joshua prepared to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land, what was the one action God commanded? Why?
  2. How do we take God's Word to heart?
  3. How important is God's Word for bearing good fruit?
  4. What does Jesus teach us in Matthew about God's Words?

—[ LET'S ACT ]—

- Practice patience. Write down 2 or 3 circumstances when you often lose your patience (e.g. bad traffic, slow restaurant service, upset child, etc.). Consider what happens within you and to others when you lose patience. Also consider what it is about these circumstances that cause you to lose your patience. Then, choose one circumstance and write down a few potential results if you were to hold your patience. Now, prepare an action plan to help you keep your patience the next time one of these circumstances occurs. Be sure to include God's Word as part of your action plan (e.g. memorize a bible verse that helps, keep a psalm in your pocket, etc.)! Ask a friend for help if you need help coming up with ideas or Bible passages to use.

—[ **SERMON REVIEW** ]—

- Extra scriptures referenced: [Ps 5:1-3] - [Rom 5:2b-4] - [2 Pet 3:8-10]
- Waiting is hard for us to do. In the midst of this waiting we often feel restless, irritable, helpless, frustrated, and ready to act.
- Habakkuk intentionally waited for God to respond. The image that Habakkuk gives is significant: Like a watchman, he has positioned himself to see what God will say about Habakkuk's complaint and the condition of his people. His posture is vigilance: wait and watch.
- But waiting and watching is hard. We tend to have a posture of control and impatience. We act and botch rather than wait and watch.
- First, we need patience, which is more than waiting. It is waiting with hope, and this directly influences how we behave while we wait. Rom. 5:2b-4 reminds us what patience produces in us.
- So, when it comes to waiting, here are some suggestions for what *not* to do:
  1. Stay so busy that we don't think about it.
  2. Listen only to what we want to hear.
  3. Try to do it on our own.
  4. Give up.
- Second, we need perspective. The most important vantage point from which to get a different perspective is God's Word. God speaks with Habakkuk and tells him to write down and focus on His Words. We need to get that same perspective. 2 Pet. 3:8-10 helps us with this perspective.
- David is a great biblical example of someone willing to focus on God's Word for perspective. Many Psalms reveal this attitude in David and Psalm 5:1-3 presents a very clear example.
- Practically, we can work on gaining this perspective in two main ways:
  1. Pray to gain God's ear.
  2. Read to gain God's heart.

—[ **NOTES** ]—

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