



# LIFEGROUPS

Series: Bad Times, Good God

Scripture: Habakkuk 3:1-19

Date: Nov. 26 & 27, 2016

## —[ LET'S START ]—

- What's one of the toughest challenges you've faced in your life so far?

## —[ LET'S TALK ]—

1. What do we mean when you say or sing "God is good"? Do we say that God is good because good things happen? What about when bad things take place?
  - How does Habakkuk cope with the bad times?
  - How do you cope with bad times, or how have you seen others cope?
2. Consider your friends and family, have you ever seen any of them rejoice while they are suffering? What does it really mean to rejoice in suffering?
3. When bad times come, is it OK to be upset, tearful, and to not have all the answers? Is it possible to experience peace through trust in God, and gut wrenching sorrow at the same time?
4. How do we rejoice *while* we suffer?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 and talk about embracing suffering.
  - What reason did Paul give for having a "thorn in [his] flesh"?
  - How are human weakness and God's power connected?
  - Why are we strong when we are weak?

## —[ LET'S ACT ]—

- Find a Psalm, or another passage of scripture that gives you hope. Practice repeating that scripture to yourself two or three times a day for a week. Talk with your group about how the repetition of God's Word impacted your ability to remain peaceful throughout the pressures of the week.

—[ **SERMON REVIEW** ]—

- Habakkuk and the Israelites were having a really bad time and were facing an even darker future. Yet, Habakkuk rejoices and finds joy nevertheless. He does so through trusting in the power of God.
- When we trust in God, He gives us sure footing through circumstances, so suffering has the capacity to lift you to greater spiritual heights. But if we don't trust in God's path—if we doubt our footing—then suffering may plunge you into the valley of despair.
- Everyone struggles to remain trusting and sure-footed in their faith. Although many rejoice when the suffering is over, almost everyone has trouble staying joyful in the midst of bad times.
- Habakkuk actually held two emotions at the same time! Although he was terrified and worried sick, he was also at peace and joyful.
- We have been taught to believe that if you have faith and claim to be at peace you cannot cry, you cannot be upset, and you have to be strong. That is not the truth though, and Habakkuk proves it to us.
- In order to rejoice in your suffering you need to keep the Word of God in your mind and heart. To rejoice means to treasure or savor something. So, we need to constantly and consistently repeat and savor God's Word in order to rejoice while suffering.

—[ **NOTES** ]—

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