



## When God Seems Silent

### WEEK 2 DISCUSSION GUIDE

#### OVERVIEW

In this message of the series, *Why God?*, we will learn what to do when God seems silent.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Habakkuk 1:13** says: *Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrongdoing. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves?*

In this verse we see Habakkuk complaining to God about his seeming silence and inaction amid a culture becoming dark, unjust, and even violent. Habakkuk is trying to reconcile what he knows about God in his heart with what he sees happening around him with his eyes. He is wrestling through his doubts and questions with all the darkness around him. We can be honest with God and share our questions, concerns, and complaints. We all wrestle in times of darkness, but we can overcome it.

#### Four Keys to Overcoming in the Dark:

1. We watch and wait.

**Habakkuk 2:1 (NIV)** says: *I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts (city walls); I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint.* Habakkuk is watching evil encroach—but all the while he was waiting on God’s plan to unfold. As followers of Christ, we are also called to be watchmen—prayer warriors and intercessors for our family, friends, and nation.

The end of **verse 1** says: *...I will look to see what he will say to me...* As we watch, and as we wait, we listen for God to speak. He is always speaking, but are we always listening? As we watch, we wait on the Lord. This waiting implies us engaging our faith. **Micah 7:7** says: *But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me.* We live by faith—even in the waiting.

- Who do you need to be in prayer for right now?
- Do you normally take time to listen in prayer? Why is this important?

2. Write down what God speaks!

**Habakkuk 2:2-5** says: ***Then the LORD answered me and said: “Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. Behold the proud, his soul is not upright in him; but the just shall live by his faith.”***

Our busy lifestyles often keep us from being intentional with hearing from God and writing down what He says. If we are intentional about writing it down, it means that we have deliberately taken the time to spiritually consider things God has spoken. Today, we have God’s Word and God’s voice through the Holy Spirit. It’s crucial we stay vitally connected to the Bible and the Spirit of God daily.

- Why should we write down what God says?
- What’s the last thing God spoke to you?
- How do we stay connected to the Holy Spirit?

3. Live faith filled.

**Habakkuk 2:4** says: ***“Behold the proud, his soul is not upright in him; but the just shall live by his faith.”*** We live by what God says, not by what we see or feel.

- How can we build our faith?

4. Beware of the ways of Babylon.

Babylon is both a literal historical kingdom, but it is always a symbol of the world’s system that is against God. In **verses 6-19**, God says justice will be done. Their evil will be repaid and what they have built up will be lost.

There’s a big difference between the world’s ways and God’s ways. There are slippery slopes into the streets of Babylon all around us, so we must walk wisely. **Matthew 26:41**: ***“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”***

- How can we stay strong and not fall into temptation when faced with the pressures of the world?

## LIFE CHALLENGE

When you are reading God’s Word and praying, get a journal and write down what He speaks to you. Take time in prayer to sit in silence without distractions and listen for God’s voice, then write down what He says.

## PRAYER

*Thank You for always listening to us and speaking to us. Guide us through these dark times. We need You, God. Direct us on the path You want us to take. Show us how we can intercede for our family, friends, community, and world. Amen.* Pray for the specific needs of the group.