

Weekly Study Guide

The week of December 2, 2012

Daily Readings

Monday	Habakkuk 1:1-4	Tuesday	Habakkuk 1:5-11	Wednesday	Habakkuk 1:12-2:1
Thursday	Habakkuk 2:2-20	Friday	Habakkuk 3:1-19	Saturday	Luke 7:18-23

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message: *Waiting for God's Guidance*

Next week's readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34, John 16:12-15

God promised to create justice in His world, and he also promised to lead and teach his people to walk in the way of life. When our *Waiting* series continues next week, we will see how God reveals his will to people as we are "Waiting for God's Guidance."



www.flcwb.org • info@flcwb.org

4000 Linden Street • White Bear Lake, MN 55110 • 651.429.5349

Group Discussion

Connect	<p>What's something that you have waited for in life? Are you waiting for something even now?</p>
Learn	<p>The Old Testament prophet Habakkuk complained to God about injustice in his own land (Judah), and he complained that God should do something about it. The book of Habakkuk is mostly two prayers of complaint by Habakkuk and two answers from God. Read his first prayer in Habakkuk 1:2-4.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make a list of the things that Habakkuk complained to God about.• What do you think of when you hear words such as injustice, wrongdoing, or violence?• Who is most likely to pray a prayer of complaint like this? <p>God's answer to Habakkuk's first prayer is found in Habakkuk 1:5-11. In that answer, God says that he is going to use the mighty nation of Babylon to conquer his own people Israel because of their injustice. God's second answer is longer and it expands on the first one. It is found in Habakkuk 2:2-20.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read God's first answer in Habakkuk 1:5-11. What is your first reaction when you hear that God is going to cause real punishment to happen because of sin?• Read also 2:6-8, 15-16, and 17. These verses depict God's punishment as "natural consequences." Greed, immorality, and violence will come back to haunt themselves. Do you think this still happens today?• Many Old Testament prophets, Habakkuk included, connect behavioral problems with spiritual problems. Read 2:18-20 to see God's complaint about idolatry. In your view, how does knowing God lead to godly living? <p>Read Luke 7:18-23. Jesus interpreted his own life and ministry partly in terms of healing injustice. Note that the Bible tends to view sickness and disease as one more sign that the world has been structurally flawed by Sin. Jesus lumps a whole variety of things together in his description of his work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How would you put Jesus' answer to John's question in your own words?• Christians are still waiting for Jesus to return and finish his work. How do you see Christians carrying on this work of Jesus in the meantime?
Apply	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What's the greatest encouragement or hope that you find in knowing that God cares about injustice in his world?• How do you think God wants you to respond to His desire to restore justice?
Pray	<p>In addition to the prayer needs in your group, pray for God's justice to be done on earth as it is in heaven, and ask God how you can faithfully respond to God's desire for justice.</p>