

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, September 19, 2004

Passage: Habakkuk 1:1-4

Memory Passage: Psalm 46:1

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read Habakkuk 1. What is the concern of the prophet in this chapter? What questions he is asking? (b) Habakkuk lived during the time of Jeremiah under King Jehoiakim. What does 2 Kings 23:35-37 tell us about Jehoiakim? (c) What kinds of evil had “his fathers done?” Read 2 Kings 23:4-25. Make a list of the sins that the nation had committed and God’s judgment on them. (d) What had prompted Josiah to make these changes (2 Kings 22)? What does this tell us about the Word of God (Hebrews 4:12-13)? (e) Read Habakkuk 1:1-4. What problems were facing his country? Are any of these facing us today? Explain. (f) Spend some time praying for your country today. Ask that God would show you its sins and give you a burden about them.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read Habakkuk 1:1-4. How does this prophecy begin in verse one? Compare a couple of translations. (b) What was the main question that Habakkuk had? Do believers often have these questions? (c) Read Psalm 74:10 and 79:5. How does the Psalmist appeal to God in 74:22-23 and 79:13? What does this teach us about the right way to handle our questions and struggles? (d) What did Jesus teach his disciples about this in Luke 18:1-8? What should we do in times when it seems like God will not hear and act? (e) What is one of the reasons for this situation according to verse 4? Consider this in light of the change made under Josiah. What can give us the confidence we need when we face such difficulties? (f) Pray for someone today who is struggling to trust God in a very difficult situation.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read Habakkuk 2. What does Habakkuk say he will do? Is this an arrogant statement? Why or why not? (b) How does God answer him? What is God telling him to do? (c) In this chapter, there are three assurances that we need to be able to face difficulties with faith. What are they and how does each help you to trust God in tough times (2:4; 2:14; 2:20)? (d) Make a list of the sins that God confronts in chapter 3. Are any of these still problems today? Explain. (e) Read 1 Samuel 12:23. Ask the Lord to give you a heart of prayer – that you would learn to pray about everything and worry about nothing (Phil. 4:6).

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read Habakkuk 3. What is different about the structure of this chapter? What does 3:19 tell us about Habakkuk’s position? (b) What does he ask God to do (vs. 1-2)? What does he remember about God? How does this give him confidence? (c) What conclusion does Habakkuk reach by the end of the chapter? What has changed in Judah’s situation since chapter 1? (d) What had God promised he would do to Judah in Jeremiah 3:6-14? What was the greatest problem with the people (verse 10)? (e) What had they tried to do according to Jeremiah 2:13? Compare this to John 4:1-26 and 7:37-38. (f) Pray for someone today who is searching for satisfaction apart from Christ.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read Psalm 73:1-14. What are the complaints of the Asaph? (b) What causes him to change his complaint (Psalm 73:15-17)? (c) What did he understand about the end of the wicked (Psalm 73:18-20)? What did he understand about God’s care for him (Psalm 73:21-24)? How did he decide he would live his life, even in light of evil in the world (Psalm 73:25-28)? (d) How did the Book of Habakkuk begin? How did it end? Has the situation changed? What has changed? Why? (e) What conclusion does the book end with (3:17-19)? What is Habakkuk saying? (f) Ask the Lord to give you an eternal and heavenly perspective on the difficulties you are facing now.

What have you learned today about faith and difficulties?

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Faith in Difficult Times

“Yet I will rejoice in the Lord and joy in the God of my salvation.”