

## Reflection and Discussion

Sermon Series	Major Lessons from the Minor Prophets
Sermon Title	Why God?
Bible Texts	Habakkuk
Date	June 25, 2023

Isn't good supposed to win out over evil?

Can we trust the wisdom and character of God when it doesn't?

### CONNECT – Getting to know one another

Question 1: “Why God?” seems like a natural question when we consider events in the world—both past and current. How do you deal with the “why” question?

Question 2: What's the difference between grumbling against God and bringing our complaints to him? (Compare Psalm 78:17-22 with Psalm 73:12-17.)

### EQUIP – Understanding God's word

Habakkuk's first complaint. 1:2-4

Question 3: Habakkuk opens in verses 2-4 with a deep longing for answers to some profound issues. How would you express his questions in today's terms?

Question 4: Where was the violence and injustice occurring that Habakkuk referred to in these verses?

Question 5: The LORD answers Habakkuk with a promise of judgment in 1:5-11. What is God's commitment to the wicked?

Question 6: Place yourself in Habakkuk's shoes. What do you think Habakkuk felt when he heard this? Is this the response you would have been hoping for?

Question 7: If God disciplined Judah because they refused to obey him, how might this also be a warning for us?

Habakkuk's second complaint. 1:12-17

Question 8: Based on God's response to his first question, Habakkuk raises another in 1:12-17. How would you summarize this one?

Question 9: What attributes of God does Habakkuk list in his second complaint?

Question 10: What does Habakkuk decide to do after asking God this “why” question?

Question 11: Summarize God's response in 2:4-20. How do you think this prophetic word may connect to today?

Question 12: God assured Habakkuk of the destruction of Babylon. Do you think this brought him peace?

Question 13: A psalmist describes a similar time of discouragement. How did he find resolution? (Psalm 73:2-20)

Question 14: What is your reaction to Habakkuk 2:20? What perspective does this verse provide in understanding our present time? How does it make you feel?

Waiting with faith – a psalm. 3:1-19

Question 15: How does Habakkuk describe God's character in his closing prayer? Which descriptors speak most to you?

Question 16: Habakkuk also describes his own personal response of faith and hope in 3:16-19. How does this compare to how you feel when facing life's difficult situations?

Question 17: Why does remembering God and His promises build our faith?

### DISCIPLESHIP – Becoming and doing

Question 18: Life is full of instances where we are challenged by the chaos of the world we live in. How does Habakkuk help you to maintain perspective and a hopeful spirit?

Question 19: Job also questioned God about injustice in life, and God replied with questions of his own. How does God's reply in Job 38:1-7 relate to our "why" questions?

Question 20: Secure in his understanding of God, Habakkuk concluded with a declaration of faith in 3:17-19. Is this the kind of faith you aspire to? Why?