

Why Does God Seem Unfair? | Week 1 - God is Faithful Through The Struggle

Big Idea

When life is unfair, complain and lament, but hold on to God.

Scripture

Habakkuk 1:1-4, Habakkuk 1:5-7, Habakkuk 1:12-13, and Matthew 27:46

Overview

In this series, we hope to discover how the Old Testament prophet Habakkuk navigates challenging seasons in his life and to do the same in our own lives during those times when it seems God is unfair.

Opening Question

Share a picture on your phone that makes you smile. What is it about that picture that brings a smile to your face? If you don't store photos on a phone, share a memory that makes you happy.

Bible Discussion

1. The prophet Habakkuk starts with a complaint to God. Read Habakkuk 1:1-4. Habakkuk expresses concern about violence, injustice, and conflict. How are these themes relevant to what we are facing in our world today?
2. Read God's response in Habakkuk 1:5-7. In verse 5, God speaks of doing a work that the people wouldn't believe even if told. What might this suggest of God's plans and our understanding of them?
3. Read Habakkuk 1:12-13. Despite his confusion and frustration, Habakkuk holds onto the idea that God is holy, eternal, and pure. Discuss the tension between God's holiness and the existence of evil in the world.
4. Even Jesus lamented in response to suffering. Read Matthew 27:46. How does this moment deepen our understanding of Jesus' humanity and his relationship with God?

Life Application

5. In Habakkuk 1:2, he asks, "How long, Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen?" Does this resonate with you? If so, how?
6. Share a time in your life when God's answer was not what you expected. How did that impact you and your faith? Has your perspective changed over time? If so, how?
7. Discuss Christian thought leader John Stott's quote: "Our sufferings become more manageable in the light of his (Jesus). There is still a question mark against human suffering, but over it we boldly stamp another mark, the cross."