

NOVEMBER 27, 2022 – LOGAN HOWARD

TURNING DISAPPOINTMENT INTO PRAISE

Big Idea

If we are honest, there have likely been times when we've thought that God has let us down, we were disappointed because God did not respond or we were not aware that He was already at work in the situation. The Bible addresses this topic in the story of Habakkuk, the framework of moving from disappointment to praise. Habakkuk started with a position of disappointment and accusation, but then it changed to a position of adoration. Praise is possible when we grasp that God is in control even when we aren't. When we pray about our disappointments, when we tell God about them, and then stop to listen, our hearts change and eventually we begin to see and praise God for who He is. What appears to be delayed timing is God's perfect timing.

Scripture

- **Hebrews 4:12 NLT**

For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

- **Habbakuk 1:1-2 NLT**

This is the message that the prophet Habakkuk received in a vision. How long, O Lord, must I call for help? But you do not listen! "Violence is everywhere!" I cry, but you do not come to save.

- **Habbakuk 2:3 NLT**

This vision is for a future time. It describes the end, and it will be fulfilled. If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed.

- **Habbakuk 3:17-19 NLT**

Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty, yet I will rejoice in the Lord! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation! The Sovereign Lord is my strength! He makes me as surefooted as a deer, able to tread upon the heights.

Discussion Questions

- Have you ever actually lashed out at God and let Him know that you were angry with or disappointed in Him? What do you imagine God was thinking as He observed you?
- Can you share a time when you were mad at God or disappointed that your prayer was not answered? What was God's answer to the situation? How did you recognize that God's answer was so much better than your solution?
- In the middle of a storm, how did you actually start to praise God?

Prayer Focus

Heavenly Father, Your patience and understanding towards us is amazing. We praise you for your unconditional love for us. We know that you alone are trustworthy. We can trust you with our feelings - all of them. In the middle of our situations, please help us to get in the habit of stopping to listen for Your still small voice. As we encounter others who are going through times of crisis or who are in lonely desert places, help us to share Your Word with them so that they may experience Your peace that goes beyond any human understanding of peace.

Next Steps

This week, be sensitive to the situations of those in your LF group. Encourage each other to read God's Word to find His wisdom and guidance in order to navigate life's situations. Reading the short book of Habakkuk is a great start. Think about the upcoming Legacy Offering, and ask God to show you what your part should be.

Leader Tip

Consider the effect of individuals in scripture who turned to God during times of adversity. Be intentional as you think about how God might use the testimony of your situations to build their faith, or cause others to commit their lives to the Lord.