REVIEW/PAUSE/PLAY

Conversation #1 – God, I'm totally **CONFUSED** by You! 1:1-11

Habakkuk's **Lament** - vs. 1-4 *'God, You're doing too little!'*

Confused by God's years of **SILENCE**:

'Don't you notice the rise of evil and unrest?'

Your **WORD** is ignored

JUSTICE does not prevail

Unrighteous people **OUTNUMBER** and **OUTSHOUT** righteous people

Justice is **PERVERTED**

Confused by God's decades of **INACTION**:

'How long, Lord?', 'Why do You...?'

Request: Israel needs either Spiritual REVIVAL or Divine REBUKE

God's **Response -** vs. 5-11

I <u>SEE</u> everything, nothing escapes My <u>NOTICE</u>, and I'm <u>WRITING</u> it all down in My book of deeds. (Revelation 20:12)

What's taking place is all part of My long term **STRATEGY** to fulfill My **plans** and **purposes** among My people.

I'm raising up the **CHALDEANS** to carry out My plan

Life applications:

Let your **KNOWLEDGE** of God define life's circumstances; don't let life circumstances **DEFINE** your God

God's <u>TIMETABLE</u> vs. our <u>TIMETABLE</u>

We are free to make our **CHOICES**, but God determines the **CONSEQUENCES**

God is **MORAL**, therefore His reprimands always 'FIT THE CRIME'.

Auburn Grace Community Church - January 9th, 2022

Life Group Discussion Questions – January 9, 2022

Habakkuk 1:5 "Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder! Because I am doing something in your days – You would not believe if you were told."

DISCOVER

- 1. What makes a person loyal and dedicated to their spouse? To their employers? When do you waver in your devotion and find yourself questioning their actions (or non-actions)?
- 2. What does the term "realistic expectations" mean? What are the pros and cons of having expectations? What makes them realistic? How does the passage of time impact our expectations?
- 3. How do you feel when people vent their frustrations and are not willing to hear wise counsel?

EXPLORE (read Habakkuk 1)

- 1. How would you describe Habakkuk's attitude in this chapter? Why is he confused? What is the core problem he is asking God about? How is his character the same as God's? How is it different?
- 2. What verses can you highlight in this passage that are directed to God's apparent inaction?
- 3. Do you think God minds if we sincerely question Him? What motives might we have that God would disapprove of when questioning His methods? What motives would He smile on? (see Deuteronomy 6:16; Proverbs 16:4, 25:2; Isaiah 55:8-9)

EXPERIENCE

- 1. Because we have the Holy Spirit residing in us, we should have a sensitivity to the sin in our lives first and then also to the sin condition of others. How do you react when you see the sin around you? How do you internalize it?
- 2. What kinds of things are we able to observe in our world that confuse us? How should we deal with these circumstances before God?
- 3. When we ask the sincerest of questions of God with the purest motives, we must be willing to listen to the answer(s). What are some of the obstacles we have to overcome in order to hear God clearly?
- 4. What are the benefits of letting student's struggle through the process of learning rather than giving all the answers right away? In what ways does God "give the test before the lesson"?

PRAY

Pray...My Gracious God and Father, I do not always understand why certain things are permitted in my life and why evil men so often appear to prosper – but I trust in Your love, for You are my Father and I am Your child. I understand Lord that in this world there will always be trials but praise be to Christ Jesus, for He has overcome the world and saved me from destruction.

Action...With a heart sincerely wanting to understand more about God's nature and why He does things, seek Him in your quiet time this week about an issue in your life that is long-unresolved. In what different way will you listen for His answer?