



## Small Group Questions: Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2023 'Lean on Me.' Habakkuk 2:4-20

In the sermon, we started by looking at the context of the prophet Habakkuk in the History of Israel, from the Exodus from Egypt, through the 400 years of the Kings of both the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Habakkuk sits after the invasion of the Northern Kingdom of Israel by Assyria, and just before the invasion of the Southern Kingdom of Judah by the Neo Babylonian Empire. The prophets have relentlessly called Israel to put their trust in God alone, but the Old Testament narrates their struggle to do this, both in seasons of struggle, and in seasons of plenty.

### Pray

1. Opening Discussion:  
If you feel able, share a time where you have known God to be your strength. Was it tempting to rely on other things/ people for your strength? Looking back, where was God?

### Read the passage.

Chapter 1:11 says of Babylon, their 'own strength is their God.' Babylon becomes for us an example of the shock waves that ripple out across the world when humans put themselves in the place of God.

2. What are the 5 woes in verses 6-19 – how would you summarise them? Do any of them particularly resonate with an area of injustice you are particularly passionate about?
3. Perhaps pause to pray for particular areas of injustice around the world today that are on your heart to pray for.
4. What alternative is given in verse 4? Read the cross-references in the New Testament: Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:37-38. Spend some time reflecting on the message of the Gospel in these passages. Look particularly at verse 16 and think about Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.
5. In pairs, work out a sentence that describes the message of the Gospel from this chapter, using no jargon so that anyone could understand it! Share if comfortable.
6. How do we live in such a way that we are always aware of our desperate need for God? Share as a group any ways you find helpful to keep leaning on God and not on our own strength. If you feel comfortable, share honestly if this is something you find challenging. What are the challenges?

### Read the final verse Habakkuk 2:20:

'The Lord is in His Holy temple, let all the earth be silent.'

The ceaseless wrestling for strength stops when we see God. Finish with prayer