**TIME ALONE WITH GOD**

Ingredients:

* Half an hour, every day.
* Quiet, so you focus on yourself and on God;
* Prayer, worship, thanksgiving, as your response to God
* Word, so you can ponder His truth
* Life, people and events, so you are aware of Him in these situations

Method:

* Time – a fixed time when you are unlikely to be interrupted is best but more important is to actually start having such a time with God.
* Quiet – A simple method is to be quiet until you are aware you are in God’s presence before you start to respond to Him.
* Word – Read and be familiar with what is said. Meditate on the Word: “What does it say?” “What does it mean?” “How should I respond?” You may use the questions to help you or set them aside.
* Life – Use the time to also be aware of the things that are happening, inside you and around you. Bring these before God and speak to Him.

# Monday

**HABAKKUK 1:1-4**

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. Read the text until you can understand what it says. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. What is the problem that Habakkuk is confronted with? Who is he referring to? Are you similarly concerned about the degree of injustice, violence and conflict in your society; that the law seems unable to punish the wrong and uphold the right?
3. *“How long, Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing?”* It is important to note that while Habakkuk complains, he does so to God. He has a relationship with God that allows him to be honest and ask difficult questions. Do you have such a relationship with God?
4. What are the “big questions” that you ask of God? Write down a prayer in response.

# Tuesday

**HABAKKUK 1:1-4**

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. Read the passage. Review the answers/thoughts you wrote down yesterday. Is there anything that you need to respond to?
3. Review the past day. What concerns/joys/events occupy your heart?
4. Write down a prayer in response.

# Wednesday

**HABAKKUK 1:12-13, 2:1**

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. Read the text until you can understand what it says. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. God’s response to Habakkuk’s complaint is to point out that the Babylonians are on the verge of conquering Judah (1:5-11) as a result of Judah’s sin. How does Habakkuk respond to this (vv12-13)?
3. The fact that God is using a cruel and evil nation to punish Judah was a shock to Habakkuk. How does Habakkuk describe the problem that he sees? How does Habakkuk view God?
4. God’s response to Judah’s sin showed Habakkuk how little he understood God’s ways in dealing with nations. What then did Habakkuk resolve to do (2:1)?
5. It is hard to see or even understand the acts of God because they are not overt. Yet fundamentally God is telling Habakkuk that he will continue to care about the righteous, about injustice and about evil. Write down a prayer in response.

# Thursday

**HABAKKUK 1:12-13, 2:1**

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. Read the passage. Review the answers/thoughts you wrote down yesterday. Is there anything that you need to respond to?
3. Review the past day. What concerns/joys/events occupy your heart?
4. Write down a prayer in response.

# Friday

**HABAKKUK 2:2-20**

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. Read the text until you can understand what it says. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. The prophecy about the destruction of Babylon is written in poetic form and has a lot of graphic detail, but the essence is clear in v16. What will be the fate of Babylon?
3. Why does God allow Babylon to meet its fate even though he has used it as his instrument against Judah? What can Habakkuk count on to see that the wicked will meet their just punishment (v20)?
4. On the other hand, what does God promise with regard to the righteous (v4)?
5. In v14 and v20, Habakkuk’s prophecy paints a picture of God’s sovereign power over all the earth. Read the 2 verses and let the picture sink in your heart. Think through all your “big questions”. Here is God’s reply. Write down a prayer in response.

# Saturday

**HABAKKUK 2:2-20**

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. Read the passage. Review the answers/thoughts you wrote down yesterday. Is there anything that you need to respond to?
3. Review the past day. What concerns/joys/events occupy your heart?
4. Write down a prayer in response.

# Sunday

##### THE LORD IS IN HIS HOLY TEMPLE; LET ALL THE EARTH BE SILENT BEFORE HIM

Violence; injustice; the wicked disenfranchise the righteous and make them helpless; and the law is useless. It looks like no one is in charge and Habakkuk turns to God to ask: where are you? Why are you silent? How can you tolerate all this?

In answering Habakkuk’s cry for justice, God tells him that an even greater injustice is going to happen. Judah, the nation that Habakkuk is in despair over, is itself going to be destroyed by the Babylonians. When you operate in the realm of evil, know that you can fall prey to even greater evil. God is not on your side.

But Habakkuk is flabbergasted. “Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves?”

God’s answer, *“but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness”*, emphasises that the reverse also holds true: the wicked will die by his own evil. *“Will not your creditors suddenly arise? Will they not wake up and make you tremble? Then you will become their prey. Because you have plundered many nations, the peoples who are left will plunder you.”* It is not a question of lesser or greater. It is that when you live by wickedness, you will die by wickedness. Evil has consequences.

God is not a man-made idol who can be manipulated nor a lifeless idol who is powerless. God is the eternal God almighty. He is in his holy Temple and no one can dislodge him, no one can out-maneuver him, no one can get away from his justice.

In answering him, God gave Habakkuk a vision of him. The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him.

*Habakkuk’s response is in Chapter 3. Do read it, especially 3:16-19 because it beautifully captures how we should respond as we see him in his holy temple.*

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. Review the answers/thoughts you wrote down in the past week. What conclusion can you draw from the passages of Scripture you have been considering? Is there anything that you need to respond to?
3. Read the short sharing above. Do they add anything to your own conclusions?
4. Review the past week. What concerns/joys/events occupy your heart?
5. Write down a prayer in response.