**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 3:1-2**

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.

*The first 2 chapters of Habakkuk were covered in Week 26. Habakkuk was complaining to God about the injustice in his country when God showed him that his country will be overrun by Babylon. Following his second complaint asking why God is letting a wicked nation overrun a less wicked country, God revealed that ultimately Babylon will meet its just fate too.*

1. How did Habakkuk respond to God’s revelation? How has his view of God expanded?
2. *“Repeat them (your awesome deeds) in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.”* What is he asking of God?
3. “In wrath remember mercy” holds in beautiful tension the acceptance that God’s wrath on the unjust and wicked is necessary and good, yet acknowledges that often the people we love and care for, even we ourselves, also suffer under that wrath. Write down a prayer in response.

# Tuesday

**HABAKKUK 3:1-2**

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 3:3-15**

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. Read the vivid description by Habakkuk of the avenging God at whom the nations tremble and before whom even ancient establishments crumble. *“His glory covered the heavens and his praise filled the earth. His splendor was like the sunrise.”* This is the God he now sees, no longer the one in chapter 1 when he complains, *“How long, Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, “Violence!” but you do not save? Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing?”* What does Habakkuk want us to take away from the picture he paints?
3. In the middle of all the violent action, the wrath and the awesome display of power, Habakkuk makes this observation: *“You came out to deliver your people, to save your anointed one.”* What is Habakkuk’s assurance as the macro events around him unfold? Do you share the same assurance?
4. What is the vision of God in your mind? One resembling Habakkuk’s view in chapter 1 or the one in chapter 3? Write down a prayer in response.

# Thursday

**HABAKKUK 3:3-15**

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 3:16-19**

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. *“Yet I will wait patiently for the day of calamity to come on the nation invading us.”* Habakkuk was stricken at the thought of his nation invaded by Babylon. Yet he trusts that God indeed will “in wrath remember mercy”. Consider the idea of “waiting patiently” for God to take action that Habakkuk has learned. Is this something you need to learn as well?
3. *“Though the fig tree does not bud ... yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.”* Habakkuk took a further step in his faith. Even in the midst of a contrary reality, he will rejoice in the reality of God’s faithfulness in coming to his rescue. How about you? Is this a step too far? For Habakkuk, God is his strength, who enables him.
4. In our reality, God has come to our rescue, when our Lord sacrificed himself to save us. As Paul pointed out, if God has done this at the cost of his Son, surely we can trust him in all other matters. Write down a prayer in response.

# Saturday

**HABAKKUK 3:16-19**

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

##### FAITH

How do we respond to the declaration “The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him”? Surely it is to do exactly that: be silent. And Habakkuk learned silence and in that silence, God is revealed in his majesty, his splendour that covers the heavens as the sun does, that he created. Over the sweep of history, God marches and his will is indomitable.

In silence Habakkuk waits. In silence Habakkuk hopes and believes that God will be faithful.

This silence is what the New Testament calls faith — trusting God, waiting for him even in the midst of trouble, persevering through our struggles and difficulties, knowing that he remains utterly in control; knowing that the day of deliverance will surely come. *“You came out to deliver your people, to save your anointed one.”*

In the meantime, God, who is sovereign, gives us strength to rise above our circumstances so that we may continue to do what is good and right in his sight.

*I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior. The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights.*

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.