



Discussion Guide  
Over/It — Part 5  
LEADER GUIDE

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*We spend so much of our lives trying to prove we're okay—to ourselves, to others, even to God. But the resurrection is God's final word: you are fully forgiven, fully accepted, and free to live differently. This series explores how that truth becomes real, present power in our everyday lives.*

NEED A RESOURCE, HAVE A QUESTION, OR WANT TO HAVE A CONVERSATION?  
Let us know how we can help! Contact your groups director or [discipleship@rockbridge.cc](mailto:discipleship@rockbridge.cc)

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**"Every lament is a prayer, a statement of faith."**

[Mark Vroegop]

LEADER RESOURCES || **Leader Note** *We do our best to equip, empower, and encourage you to shepherd your group well.*

- **Passage Summary**
  - The first two chapters of Habakkuk are a series of conversations between the author and God, where Habakkuk brings his complaints before the Lord, and the Lord answers, addressing his concerns and drawing his eyes to watch what the Lord will do. Even if the answer isn't what Habakkuk wanted to hear, by the end of the book, he is settled in his faith that God sees, God cares, and God will act on behalf of His name.
- **Book of Habakkuk Summary**
  - If you haven't read the book in awhile, this is a quick overview that helps place it in context of the rest of the Bible.

ENGAGE & CONNECT || **Leader Note** *The goal for the icebreaker is to prepare your group for the conversation ahead by connecting with one another's hearts and building joy together.*

What is your least favorite Bible story?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER || **Leader Note** *Begin your time together thanking God for his presence and praying His word back to Him. Ask a few people to pray, taking a posture of humility and dependence!*

Lord, teach us how to do something difficult and scary and bold today. Teach us to grieve before You, to take our worries and complaints to Your throne in godly lament that grows our faith.

MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE || **Leader Note** *Help your group memorize this verse together by having one person read it aloud, then see who can quote it from memory. The goal is to enjoy hiding God's word in our hearts together, so encourage everyone to meditate on these verses through the sermon series.*

*"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."*

[Ephesians 4:31-32]

**PASSAGE & DISCUSSION || Leader Note** Have someone read aloud Habakkuk 1-2:4 in the ESV. Your role is to FACILITATE, so keep your group moving along, encourage people to share, and look for opportunities to point out the grace and glory of God! Here are two reminders: 1) Every question does not have to be answered ... go where the Spirit leads! 2) Answers do not have to be read aloud ... they're for guidance!

1. Why doesn't God always answer right away when we bring these things to Him? *This is more to sit with than to necessarily come to a conclusion about. We see that God does not even immediately answer Habakkuk, though He does answer. We have to wait sometimes. That waiting is food for our faith, too. Habakkuk calls himself a "watchman" waiting for God's response, and that intentional activation of waiting for God to answer is part of the process for even someone in the Bible.*
2. Is anything off-limits between you and God? Who or what taught you that it should be that way? *Answers will vary. Nothing should be off-limits between us and God, but many have taught that anger like what Habakkuk and many Psalms have expressed is unholy and therefore off-limits. Some fear being "hit by lightning" or some other nonsense if we cross the Lord in how we talk to Him. Even Job's very spicy prayers bringing his deep and real pain before the Lord is met with more of the presence of God.*
3. What question are you afraid that God can't take? *Less about what has taught us, this is more of what we might hesitate to bring because we're not sure of God for ourselves. In these situations, a good framework for bringing these things to God is "I've heard X about You. Show me who You are." Then wait like Habakkuk and watch for God to move.*
4. Who are the Habakkuks of our time? *We are. All times have nations that are like Israel was then—falling away fast, losing sight of God, and in need of a big turnaround before it's too late. All times have nations like Babylon, ones that have risen to power and economic might through devotion to evil and oppressing the poor. All times need people to lament the sins of their nation, the sins of their community, the sins of their families, and their own sins.*
5. Let's practice some godly lament like Habakkuk. How would you finish the sentence "Where are you, God, when \_\_\_\_\_?" (alternative option) "How long, oh Lord, before you \_\_\_\_\_?" *It may be helpful for you to go first here or last. Be willing to leave an extended piece of silence and be praying in it that the Holy Spirit bring up what needs to be expressed. Do not rush to a conclusion or encouragement to bring up the mood. God will answer for Himself in His own timing. When it's time to move along to the next thing, read Habakkuk 2:20 and give a little more time of quiet before asking the next question.*
6. In the sermon, there were 4 "points of breakthrough." The first was shifting from our perspective to God's revelation. What has God said about who He is that speaks to your questions? *This is the time to bring out scriptures where God has revealed who He is. His revelation is not necessarily the answer to our questions—it is of Himself.*
7. The second point of breakthrough is waiting upon the Lord so that He can have the last word. How can you remain in that place of waiting through the week, eyes open like a watchman? *This is hard. Not just staying attentive, either. Jesus teaches us to keep asking, keep seeking, and keep knocking, but the enemy will tempt us to think that we're being a nag or burden. No, we're being a watchman to bring the words of God to our hearts and to those behind the walls.*
8. The third point is "walking by faith in the faithfulness of God." How is that different from having faith that God will answer to my satisfaction? *Matt emphasized that we need to have faith in WHO GOD IS, not in anything else. Our faith is in Him, and He is faithful. He will act in*

*accordance with His own nature, so that's what we can trust.*

9. The fourth point is "to joyfully accept God's transformation of me." How is God transforming you lately? *It can be hard to describe what God is doing as He's doing it, and a lot of what is happening, we cannot see. But we should be able to at least point at a circumstance or scripture and say "it has something to do with this." Take note of these things. Write them down and pray for the members of your group through the week.*

**STEP OF OBEDIENCE** || **Leader Note** *This is an opportunity for people to put into practice what the Spirit is inviting them to do and live in obedience to God for the sake of love! You can encourage your group to be accountable to one another and use these to follow up with one another throughout the week.*

Yet I will rejoice; *I will take joy in the God of my salvation.*

*As you consider your next step, reflect on:* 1) What are you bringing to the Lord's attention? 2) What facet of who God is will you hold onto while you wait for His answer?

*Give your group a few moments to reflect on their answers to the questions above. Then have your group answer the question aloud. Feel free to separate into smaller groups of 2 or 3 for this question, so each person has others praying with them for the needs they're taking before the throne.*

**PRAYER FOCUS** || **Leader Note** *Be intentional about saving at least 5 minutes to pray together. You can ask for people's personal requests, pray through things brought up in the time together, or have each person pray a few sentences for the person next to them.*

*"Lord, You have heard Your children's cries and answered in the time of Moses. You have heard Your children's cries and answered in the time of Habakkuk. You have heard Your children's cries. Answer in our time, too. Amen."*