**Small Groups Material - Habakkuk 1**

**Complaint**

**Welcome** (10 mins) Has there been a time in your life when you’ve felt like God has not been listening to you? or What do you complain about most at home?

**Worship** (10 - 15 mins)

*Psalm 77 starts with complaints to God. Then, the psalmist remembers the times when he has known God’s power and strength. This changes his attitude.*

Read Psalm 77, each person taking a verse or two.

Give people a minute of quiet to choose one of the verses and think about it - or just repeat it time and again.

Then bring that verse to God in prayer, thanking God for what he has shown you through it.

Here’s a song you could listen to together. It voices deep inner questions as well as trust and thankfulness. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_AT7wa0tPVU>

You may want to end with prayers of thanks for ‘how God has been good to you’.

**Word**

**Read Habakkuk 1:1 - 4, 12 - 17.**

1. What are the things Habakkuk is complaining about in vs 1 - 4 and then in vs 12 - 17? (Look carefully at the text)

2. What feelings come out in his conversation with God?

3. *The Babylonians were a notoriously brutal empire. The Lord tells Habakkuk that he is raising up these Babylonians to be his instruments of justice.* How does Habakkuk react to God’s plan to use the evil Babylonians to bring judgment on his people?

4. What issues of injustice do you see around you - in the world, home, church and at work? If you were to write a complaint to God about today’s world, what would you say?

5. Habakkuk was direct and honest in his prayers? How does this help you? Discuss how we can be tempted to retreat into our ‘spiritual comfort zones’ and not face unpleasant realities.

6. **Read Romans 8:22-32**

What do these verses say which bring you encouragement in tough times?

**Witness**

Part of coming through dark times towards a better place for Habakkuk was the ability to speak out about what was hurting him.

In our communities, many people are suffering without having any hope to reach out to.

Who is there around you who could be helped by you first offering a listening ear, and then gently pointing to the source of our hope and eternal confidence in Jesus?