

## GODISNOWHERE – LIFE Group Study Guide

Pastor Mickey Stonier, Oct 16, 2016

This week, Pastor Mickey concluded the series on Pain with powerful message from the book of Habakkuk on how much God loves us. Habakkuk (whose name means "to cling") was not a prophet who shared messages; instead, he asked God questions about why evil in his land was going unpunished. And God answered that He had plans more amazing than the Jewish nation could have imagined. There is much sorrow and pain in the world and it can make us **better** or **bitter**. Just as Pastor Mickey embraced loved ones of victims involved in tragedy and disasters in his capacity as Fire Dept chaplain, God loves us and wants us to cling tightly to him. God has great plans for us and our nation. He sees us for who we are and who we will become.

### Opening Discussion:

1. Have everyone share: What was your favorite Halloween costume or mask growing up?

**Leader Note:** *After everyone has had a chance, point out that as little ones, the costume or mask allowed us to imagine we were someone else and hide or change our identity.*

2. FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS:

- \* What kind of 'masks' or costumes do we hide in today to conceal something from others?
- \* Do we speak and act differently depending on what group of people we are with?
- \* Are we the same in public as we are in private? Why or why not?

3. What was it like going on a roller coaster for the first time? Did you hold on tight? What keeps us from 'holding on' that tight with God?

### Going Deeper:



4. READ Habakkuk 1:2-4. What similarities are being experienced in today's world? Think about a time when you experienced injustice or pain. What was your reaction toward God?

5. READ Habakkuk 2:2-4. How does this passage help us to remember to live by faith?

6. Pastor Mickey talked about the pervasiveness of negative comments in the world today. Why is that and what can we do to change that?

When we talk about the past, do the conversations tend to be more positive or negative? Why?

When we talk about the future, do those conversations tend to be more positive? Why?

7. What can we do to have our identity in God verses an identity of events in our past?

**8. GROUP ACTIVITY:** Pass out a pen/pencil and blank sheet of paper to everyone. Have each person put their name at the top. Everyone then passes the sheet of paper to the person on their left. Have everyone write something positive or encouraging about the person named at the top of the page. Then, everyone passes the paper to the person on their left. Repeat the process until the person named at the top ends up back with their own page. Let everyone read what was written.

How did the comments make you feel?

Were there any unexpected things said?

The comments written indicate how others see us. How does that compare to how God sees us?