

DARE TO BE DIFFERENT

Small Group Guide

Week 1: Habakkuk-Different Glasses

Series: Dare to be Different is a 4-week series where we will look at 4 ways in which students should strive to be different than the culture around them. Our memory verse for this series is Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2

Scripture: Book of Habakkuk

Small Group Goal: To help students understand that they should see the world around them as God sees it.

Sermon Summary: **POINT 1: SEE THE WORLD AROUND YOU**

Habakkuk sees the injustice and suffering in the world around him. He sees that his culture is promoting lies that take the people of God further away from Him.

- Our culture tells us lies
- Our culture offers solutions that make things worse

POINT 2: SEE THE ROAD AHEAD

The road to Christian maturity has potholes and speed bumps. Everyone experiences moments of chaos and confusion, but Habakkuk shows us that we should be honest about that and take those moments to God.

- The struggles in this world are not a punishment. I know that's the case because all my punishment was absorbed by Jesus on the cross. I do know that God sees my suffering and allows it. There may come a day in this life when I can better understand God's reasons, but maybe we don't see those until heaven.
- Prepare for the road ahead.
 - o We prepare for hurricanes before the hurricane. Put God's word in your heart that it may sustain you every day and be available to you in your moments of greatest need.
 - o Have a regular devotional because when you're in the midst of a storm that's not the time to START deepening your relationship with God.
 - o Use the right fuel for the road ahead. Guard your heart from the things of this world. Surround yourself with people who point you to Christ

POINT 3: SEE THE HOPE IN THE UNSEEN

- Habakkuk came to understand that the "righteous will live by faith"
- Dare to find joy in God despite circumstances Habakkuk 3:17-19

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Small Group Questions: Below are some topics to guide your discussion and sample questions. You know your students best. What questions can guide them through these ideas to a better understanding of God and a clear next step for themselves?

See the World Around You: Are students' eyes open to the culture around them, how it opposes God, and how it seeks to influence them?

What are some of the lies that the world tries to tell you?

How does social media impact your self-esteem and perception of worth?

Do you find yourself comparing your life to others' highlight reels?

Are there specific peer pressures you've experienced that go against your beliefs?

How have you responded to these pressures?

What are some temptations you face in your life that you believe are influenced by the world's values?

Are there areas in your life where you compromise your faith or values in order to fit in with your peers?

See the Road Ahead: Encourage students to understand that life will have struggles, and that they should engage in biblical disciplines to deepen their relationship with God in preparation for that suffering.

How have you personally experienced challenges or struggles in your life?

How did those experiences impact your faith and relationship with God?

Reflect on a time when you witnessed someone else's faith strengthen as they faced adversity.

What stood out to you about their response?

How do you think engaging in regular Bible study can help prepare you for the challenges life brings?

Share specific verses or passages that have been encouraging to you.

How does the practice of gratitude shift our focus from our problems to God's goodness?

How can cultivating gratitude be a powerful tool during times of suffering?

How does memorizing Scripture deepen your relationship with God and equipping you to face adversity?

Share a verse that has provided comfort during tough times.

How can serving others be a way of preparing yourself for future struggles?

Share about a time when serving others uplifted your spirit during your own challenges.

Share about a time when your faith was strengthened as you leaned on God during a difficult time.

See the Hope in the Unseen: Encourage students to develop a faith that is deep, full of hope and joy, regardless of circumstances.

Can you think of a time when you or someone you know exhibited a deep faith, filled with hope and joy, even in the face of challenging circumstances? What stood out about their response?

How do you define a deep faith?

What does it look like to have a faith that goes beyond surface-level beliefs?

Share about a time when your faith was tested, and you found unexpected hope and joy through relying on God's promises.

Discuss the balance between acknowledging pain and challenges while maintaining a perspective of hope and joy. How can both coexist in a deep faith?

Discuss the impact of friends on cultivating a faith filled with hope and joy. How can Christians encourage and support one another in this journey?

In times of doubt or despair, what practical steps can you take to reconnect with God's promises and cultivate a deep, hopeful, and joyful faith?