

Habakkuk 1-3 Bible study questions and application

1. Introduce the study by discussing the meaning of motivation. Explain the difference between extrinsic (examples include coercion, reward, recognition) and intrinsic (examples include enjoyment, compassion, interest) motivation.
2. Refer to Nehemiah 1 and discuss the type of motivation that moved Nehemiah to relocate to Jerusalem to rebuild the broken city wall.
3. Refer to 1 Samuel 18:6ff and discuss the type of motivation that made Saul so obsessive in wanting to kill David.
4. Compare the different emphases of weight given to God by Nehemiah and Saul in what influenced their conduct.
5. Review the obvious differences in disposition Habakkuk displays comparing chapter 1 and the closing verses of chapter 3.
6. Reflect on what was said in the message that believers who are more focused on themselves are more likely to be passive but also note that sometimes activity in “gospel” ministry can be for the wrong reasons like the love of attention or prominence or community status or an attitude that salvation is earned by doing works. (3 John :9; Acts 8:18-24)
7. Discuss the connectedness between worship and serving the Lord with gladness. Include in your discussion a Biblical understanding of worship that incorporates all of who we are all the time. (Romans 12:1-2)
8. Read Romans 12:3-8. Note that this passage follows on from Paul urging the Romans to present themselves to God and that using spiritual gifts in ministry follows on from worshipping God.
9. Read Habakkuk 3 commenting on his encounter with God and the immediate response of submission.
10. Challenge the group to consider their walk with God as to where the emphasis of weight is given – to self or to God? You can apply this to the areas raised in the message: prayer, others, time, spiritual disciplines, singing, money, long term commitments and evangelism.