

New Song Learning Communities, August 27-30, 2026

WHY LEARNING COMMUNITIES? **Circle Two Opportunity...**

To become better and better disciples of Christ TOGETHER so we can face **anything** through...

1. Deeper learning of Biblical truth and 2. Stronger “iron sharpening iron” relationships

Ephesians 4:12–16 (ESV)

Bible Recap, August 20-26, Days 232-238, pages 1311-1361, circa 625-586 B.C.

HISTORY COVERED – Habakkuk and Jeremiah prophesy in closing days of Judah before it is conquered.

BIBLE RECAP COVERED – Habakkuk, Jeremiah 41-52, Lamentations

Habakkuk 1-2:1 Habakkuk's Complaint, The Lord's Answer,
Habakkuk's Second Complaint

Hab 2:2 Righteous Shall Live by His Faith, Woe to Chaldeans

Hab 3 Habakkuk's Prayer, Habakkuk Rejoices in the Lord

Jer 41 Gedaliah Murdered

Jer 42 Warning Against Going to Egypt

Jer 43 Jeremiah Taken to Egypt

Jer 44 Judgment for Idolatry

Jer 45 Message to Baruch

Jer 46 Judgment on Egypt

Jer 47 Judgment on the Philistines

Jer 48 Judgment on Moab

Jer 49 Judgment on Ammon, Edom, Damascus, Kedar and
Hazor, on Elam

Jer 50 Judgment on Babylon

Jer 51 The Utter Destruction of Babylon

Jer 52 Fall of Jerusalem Recounted, Temple Burned, People
Exiled to Babylon, Jehoiachin Released from Prison

Lamen 1 How Lonely Sits the City

Lamen 2 The Lord Has Destroyed Without Pity

Lamen 3 Great Is Your Faithfulness

Lamen 4 The Holy Stones Lie Scattered

Lamen 5 Restore Us to Yourself, O Lord

- ➔ **Habakkuk** starts out questioning God's justice but in the end is transformed as he realizes God is sovereign and His justice is far beyond comprehension. His was a hard assignment to tell the nation of Judah who was blinded by sin and false prophets. The “theme question” is, how can God use a wicked nation such as Babylon for his divine purpose? Answer: God judges all nations and even Babylon would eventually be judged (Babylon fell to Persia in 539). Though God's ways are sometimes mysterious, **“the righteous shall live by his faith” (2:4)** while awaiting salvation. (under point #2 below). These words are quoted 3 times in the New Testament, Romans 1:17; Gal. 3:11; Heb. 10:38. (ESV Study Bible Intro to Habakkuk)
- ➔ **Jeremiah** – continuing work, role, prophesying and life.
- ➔ **Lamentations** - 5 intricately interconnected poems, each an expression of grief over the fall of Jerusalem. Like a eulogy at a funeral, these laments are intended to mourn a loss—in this case, the loss of a nation. The latter half of chapter 3 implies that the purpose behind the book's graphic depictions of sorrow and suffering was to **produce hope in the God** whose compassion is “new every morning” (v. 23) and whose faithfulness is great even to a people who have been condemned for their own unfaithfulness. (ESV Study Bible Intro to Habakkuk)
Lamentations 3:21–24 (ESV) ²¹But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: ²²The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; ²³they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ²⁴“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”
- ➔ From Sunday... **Living daily life with Jesus as our LIVING HOPE**
What causes us to struggle to live with hope... that pushes us toward giving up hope?

- ➔ **Reality check:** reading through the Bible in a year is A LOT! The goal is to better understand the big picture of “His-Story” **and** to personally **experience God** to be **transformed bit by bit**. One of the devil's schemes to overwhelm so that we back off or give up.
SO WHAT??!! Key takeaways... truths that stuck... God-moments that impacted... bits of transformation...
This week is about HOPE. As we think about Sunday's message on hope, jot down the names of the people who have particularly caught your attention to identify how they faced seemingly hopeless situations, struggled and then held on to Living Hope?

1. What Hope is.

† Biblical hope: *being certain that God is working but not yet experienced*

† Hope is a Person

Colossians 1:27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory.

† Hope, with faith and love, is the prophets' message, the entire Bible's message.

1 Corinthians 13:13 (ESV) ¹³So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

2. What Hope does.

† Hope gives life - a person cannot live long without hope

Habakkuk 2:2–4 **ESV** ²And the Lord answered me: “Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it.

³For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay. ⁴“Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith.

† Hope flourishes best in seemingly hopeless situations

Romans 5:1–5 **(ESV)** ¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Rom 5:1-5 is the PATH to hope

- † been justified by SLO repentance (made “just as if I’d” never sinned)
- ➔ peace with God
- ➔ grace accessed - privilege of approach, not automatic
- ➔ rejoice in HOPE of glory of God - future sharing the future Kingdom
- ➔ rejoice in suffering – take joy in Christ in the midst of hopeless situations, pain, hurt...
- ➔ endure – as a test to reveal and purify, like a forge burning away dross
- ➔ character – proven, revealing who I am and what I can handle now and in the future
- ➔ HOPE – being certain that God is working but not yet received it
- ➔ not put to shame – does not disappoint or disgrace but expands the soul-depth of Spirit's Presence

3. How we live Hope.

† Hope is only experienced through RSU cooperation

- ➔ Hope is not a spectator sport – you must be “in the game”
- Jeremiah 29:10–14** **(ESV)** (pew Bible p. 657/ Bible Recap p. 1278)

† Hope lived doesn't always look like hope

† “His-Story” **APPLICATION** – starting at the beginning of the timeline, how did the people who especially caught your attention face seemingly hopeless situations, struggle and then hold on to Living Hope?

Chronological Guide: bottom p. 99, p. 100, bottom p. 101

Takeaways:

