

LOVING JESUS, LOVING PEOPLE, PLOWING A COUNTER-CULTURE

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**TEXT:** Habakkuk 3:17–19

**MAIN IDEA:** In the midst of our *thoughts*, we can choose to rejoice in God's *yets*.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Remember, there's **no Thursday service this week**. Gobble, gobble. 😊
- Want to love your neighbors this season? Sure you do! Families in need are having a very tough time right now, so **we're collecting food**, in partnership with New Hope Community Ministries and Center for Food Action. Collections will be accepted at both campuses from November 30 to December 14. Check the links on the Digital Bulletin for lists of acceptable food items.
- Have you heard of **City Relief**? They serve thousands of New Yorkers who are experiencing homelessness and hunger through hot meals, life-stabilizing services, and compassionate community. Your group can show the love of Jesus by linking up with them to serve meals at one of their mobile relief outposts. For more info, visit [cityrelief.org](http://cityrelief.org).
- 'Tis the season ... to get on up to Ringwood for the **Christmas Kickoff, on Saturday, December 6, 9–11:30 am**. We're going to deck the halls, and have food, and do kids stuff, and do outreach. What's not to like?? RSVP on the Digital Bulletin!
- **Winter Sessions** is right around the corner! The topic for this year is **How We Got the Bible**. Come on out as Pastor Doug guides us through the story of how the books of the Bible were written, chosen, preserved, and translated throughout the centuries to the present day. We will kick off on Monday, December 1, at 7 pm at the Totowa campus, and will go for six weeks, with a break for the week of Christmas.
- "A song, a song, high above the trees! It's **Christmas carolers from Emergence!!**" We'll be hitting the streets with a joyful noise beginning December 7. Go ahead and schedule an outing with your Community Group, or you can come on out to either campus on December 14 (12 pm in Ringwood, 1:15 in Totowa).
- Guess whaaaaat ... Christmas at Emergence is right around the corner! Bring all your family and friends for an incredible time of worship and celebration of Jesus' birth. Here are the times for our **Christmas Eve services**:

Totowa: 2:30 pm, 4:00 pm, 5:30 pm, and 7:00 pm

Ringwood: 4:00 pm, 5:30 pm, and 7:00 pm

Kids programs will be available at all services except the 2:30.

Spanish translation will be available at the 7:00 service in Totowa.

## GETTING STARTED:

- Watch this week's Community Extras Video.
  - **Optional Icebreaker:** What's one way you are going to be a blessing to your neighbors this season?
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Habakkuk lived shortly before the fall of Jerusalem in the late 600s BC, making him roughly contemporary with Nahum, Zephaniah, and Jeremiah. The first two chapters are a dialogue between God and the prophet, who cries out because God is going to judge his people by bringing the feared Babylonian army against them, and because of this, the righteous among his people will be swept up along with the wicked. Chapter 3 is a poetic prayer, where Habakkuk turns his eyes to God. In it, he accepts that suffering and hardship await, but chooses to find his joy in the Lord, knowing that God, who saved his people in the past, will save them again.

**Read Habakkuk 3:17–19.**

### Getting Honest About Our “Thoughts”



This week's sermon is about being honest about our “thoughts,” and answering them with God's “yets.” Describe this concept in your own words.



In the Totowa sermon, Steve began by pointing out that Christians often default to saying we're “fine,” even when we're not. What fears keep us from honestly expressing our *thoughts* with God and others?



Why is it important and good to be honest about our *thoughts*?

### Answering Our Thoughts with God's Yets



In verse 17, Habakkuk lists six things that describe the suffering he must endure. Notice that these are all “natural” examples, rather than examples of suffering caused by other people. How does natural suffering challenge our faith in a way that suffering caused by other people does not?



Verse 18 is the response to the problems of verse 17, but notice that it doesn't give the “fix” for them. God's people still face the same circumstances. What has changed in verse 18?



What does verse 18 teach us about joy?



What is a *thought* in your life right now, and what is a *yet* that God answers with?



Why do some people choose to remain in misery, rather than to rejoice in God?

### Pointing Others to the Truth

💡 Think about people who have meaningfully helped you as you were going through a season of *thoughts*. What can you learn from them that can help you walk with others through theirs?

**Read James 1:2–3.**

🧠 What reason does this passage give us for seeking joy in our trials?

**Read 2 Corinthians 1:3–4.**

💡 What is an area of life where the comfort you have received from God makes you uniquely able to comfort others in their affliction?

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### PRAYER TIME

Praise God that you can have joy in the midst of your *thoughts*.

Pray for God to teach you joy, no matter what you're going through.

Pray that God would open up opportunities to share the insights you gained this week with others.