Habakkuk 3 English Standard Version (ESV)

1 A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, according to Shigionoth.
2 O Lord, I have heard the report of you, and your work, O Lord, do I fear.
In the midst of the years revive it; in the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy.
3 God came from Teman, and the Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah
His splendor covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise.
4 His brightness was like the light; rays flashed from his hand; and there he veiled his power.
5 Before him went pestilence, and plague followed at his heels.
6 He stood and measured the earth; he looked and shook the nations; then the eternal mountains were scattered; the everlasting hills sank low.
7 I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction; the curtains of the land of Midian did tremble.
8 Was your wrath against the rivers, O Lord? Was your anger against the rivers, or your indignation against the sea, when you rode on your horses, on your chariot of salvation?
9 You stripped the sheath from your bow, calling for many arrows. Selah
You split the earth with rivers.
10 The mountains saw you and writhed; the raging waters swept on; the deep gave forth its voice; it lifted its hands on high.
11 The sun and moon stood still in their place at the light of your arrows as they sped, at the flash of your glittering spear.
12 You marched through the earth in fury; you threshed the nations in anger.
13 You went out for the salvation of your people, for the salvation of your anointed.
You crushed the head of the house of the wicked, laying him bare from thigh to neck. Selah
14 You pierced with his own arrows the heads of his warriors, who came like a whirlwind to scatter me, rejoicing as if to devour the poor in secret.
15 You trampled the sea with your horses, the surging of mighty waters.
16 I hear, and my body trembles; my lips quiver at the sound; rottenness enters into my bones; my legs tremble beneath me. Yet I will quietly wait for the day of trouble to come upon people who invade us.
17 Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls,
18 yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.
19 God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places.
Discussion/Journal Questions
Read Habakkuk 3:1-19. What emotion do you hear in Habakkuk’s voice as you read this chapter? What emotion is invoked in you as you meditate on this passage?

Reflect on verses 16-19. After all of his questions, what conclusion does Habakkuk come to?

As you meditate on verses 16-19, what hymn, song, or poem comes to mind? What about this song connects with Habakkuk?
Job 38:1-21 English Standard Version (ESV)

1 Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind and said:
   2 "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?
   3 Dress for action like a man;
       I will question you, and you make it known to me.
   4 "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?
       Tell me, if you have understanding.
   5 Who determined its measurements—surely you know!
       Or who stretched the line upon it?
   6 On what were its bases sunk,
       or who laid its cornerstone,
   7 when the morning stars sang together
       and all the sons of God shouted for joy?
   8 "Or who shut in the sea with doors
       when it burst out from the womb,
   9 when I made clouds its garment
       and thick darkness its swaddling band,
   10 and prescribed limits for it
       and set bars and doors,
   11 and said, 'Thus far shall you come,
       and no farther,
       and here shall your proud waves be stayed'?
   12 "Have you commanded the morning since your days began,
       and caused the dawn to know its place,
   13 that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth,
       and the wicked be shaken out of it?
   14 It is changed like clay under the seal,
       and its features stand out like a garment.
   15 From the wicked their light is withheld,
       and their uplifted arm is broken.
   16 "Have you entered into the springs of the sea,
       or walked in the recesses of the deep?
   17 Have the gates of death been revealed to you,
       or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?
   18 Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?
       Declare, if you know all this.
   19 "Where is the way to the dwelling of light,
       and where is the place of darkness,
   20 that you may take it to its territory
       and that you may discern the paths to its home?
   21 You know, for you were born then,
       and the number of your days is great!

Discussion/Journal Questions

Read Job 38:1-21. Job and his friends have questions for God. Here God shows up and responds. How does God respond to their questions?

What point do you think God is making with His questions for Job?

The same God who controls the details of creation is also watching over the details of your life. How does this truth affect your outlook on life?
Matthew 8:23-34 English Standard Version (ESV)

23 And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. 24 And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. 25 And they went and woke him, saying, “Save us, Lord; we are perishing.” 26 And he said to them, “Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?” Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. 27 And the men marveled, saying, “What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?”

28 And when he came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. 29 And behold, they cried out, “What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?” 30 Now a herd of many pigs was feeding at some distance from them. 31 And the demons begged him, saying, “If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of pigs.” 32 And he said to them, “Go.” So they came out and went into the pigs, and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the waters. 33 The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, especially what had happened to the demon-possessed men. 34 And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus, and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their region.

Discussion/Journal Questions
Read Matthew 8:23-27? Compare the actions and response of the disciples to the actions and response of Jesus. Why were they scared? Why was Jesus so calm?

Read Matthew 8:28-34. How were the two men who met Jesus described? How did they react to Jesus’ presence? What does this say about the power of Jesus?

In both of these stories, Jesus defeats the natural and the supernatural with merely a word. What does this mean for His ability to see you through challenges?
Romans 5:1-11 English Standard Version (ESV)

5 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Through 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. 3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and 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.

6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. 11 More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Discussion/Journal Questions
Read Romans 5:1-5. What does it mean to have peace with God? What does it mean to have access into grace?

Why does Paul write that we rejoice in suffering? How have you witnessed God use suffering to bring hope?

Read Romans 5:6-11. How have you been an enemy of God? Have you experienced reconciliation to God through Christ? What is the difference between the two?
4 Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. 2 But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God’s word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God. 3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. 6 For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. 8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. 11 For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. 12 So death is at work in us, but life in you.

Discussion/Journal Questions
Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-12. How has Paul committed to act as he shared the gospel?

In verse 7, what does Paul mean about having treasure in jars of clay? What is the treasure? What are the jars of clay?

In verses 8-10, how is the life of Jesus manifested in Paul through times of suffering?