

down remembrances of all that God has done for us and to wait knowing that God always fulfills his promises. We record and preserve our memories so that we may remember, rehearse and rejoice in our relationship with God. When times are challenging are you able to remember, rehearse and rejoice in the relationship God desires with you? Record your thoughts here.

Thursday, May 14

The Hebrew word, *Shigion*, is a directive on how to sing a song. It's believed that direction is to sing with strong emotion, impassioned exuberance, wild passionate singing with changes of rhythm, high praise with vigorous enthusiasm. *Shigionoth* is the plural of *Shigion*. When was the last time you experienced or expressed unbridled joy about a relationship with God – thankful for that relationship? This type of exuberance is rare and in fact the word, *Shigion*, is in the Bible only once (Psalm 2:1) and the word, *Shigionoth*, is found once in the Bible (Habakkuk 3:1). What does emotional, enthusiastic, passion look like in your experience? Write your thoughts here.

Friday, May 15

Read Habakkuk 3:13-19 and James 1:1-5. The wonderful thing about the third chapter of Habakkuk's prophesy is that he offers great praise to God before anything is actually realized. No promise is fulfilled, no kindness extended and yet Habakkuk offers tremendous praise to God. Therefore, Habakkuk praised God for who God is and not for what God has done. This praise is offered as a means of deepening a person's relationship with God. It's a time of just being; being with God and enjoying God on the mountain top (Habakkuk 3:19). May your feet tread on the mountain top!

Message Notes – May 10, 2020

*Hugging or Clinging?**

- I. This is my _____ Box, which I have had for over twenty years – perhaps twenty-five; it is a collection of documents, thank-you notes, letters and pictures.
 - A. These things remind me that I am a _____ child of God and that I have at times been a _____ to others.
 - B. _____ can help us deal with difficult times in our lives; to think about the challenges we face more deeply and as we reflect on them, prayerfully invite God's wisdom into our lives
 1. We've been looking at Habakkuk using the the book "Hope in the Dark" by Craig Groeschel, pastor of _____ Church in Oklahoma City.
 2. Habakkuk is different in that he brings a word from the _____ to _____.
 3. Habakkuk asked a question that echoes the question in the hearts and minds of many people today: "Why doesn't God seem _____"
 - C. What I appreciate about Habakkuk is his openness and honesty in dealing with God; he is _____ and _____ in basically confronting our loving Creator.
 1. We emerge from chapter one with some concept that God understands our pain and would rather have us scream at, be disappointed in, doubt and wrestle with him rather than _____.
 2. The main takeaway from the second chapter of Habakkuk is _____; waiting is not a passive time in our lives as God instructs Habakkuk to _____ and _____.
- II. Why is it a good idea to write things down – to record

*Habakkuk 3:13-19

God's working in the world? To _____,
rehearse and _____ in our relationship with God.

- A. *Shigionoth* is the _____ of *Shigion*.
- B. *Shigion* is a directive on how to sing a song. It's believed that direction is to sing with strong _____, impassioned exuberance, wild passionate singing with changes of rhythm, high _____ with vigorous enthusiasm.
- C. Habakkuk moves onto praise which _____ matches the prior _____ of despair.

III. Habakkuk remembers and embraces the _____ of God. Sometimes our hugging God is more like _____ to God.

- A. In the first chapter Habakkuk _____ about the goodness of God.
- B. In the second chapter he listened for God's directive, he wrote about it and _____.
- C. Now he is celebrating the _____ of God.
- D. But get this: Habakkuk is praising God _____ any demonstration of God's power and loving nature has been fulfilled.
- E. Habakkuk's praise is not for _____ God does for us but for _____ God is in relationship to us.

IV. If we can praise God for _____ God is rather than for _____ God can do for us, then it makes sense that our _____, our humanity, our preciousness to God is dependent not on _____ we do for God but for _____ we are.

- A. "My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but ____." (James 1:2)
- B. May our feet tread on the _____ !

Daily Meditations and Study Guide

The following is a daily meditation and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, May 11

The message began with Pastor Jack sharing his "Blessings Box." It is a box where he keeps documents, cards and pictures that remind him that he is a blessed child of God and has been a blessing to others. Remembering the blessings we've received during difficult times is a way to remember our personal value and purpose in God's Kingdom. Some people record the blessings they've experienced in a journal with the same purpose of remembering those blessings during difficult and challenging times. How about you? Where do you keep your blessings? If you don't have a tangible area or way of preserving your blessings, what method do you believe would work best for you? Think about the best method of preserving your blessings and write your thoughts here.

Tuesday, May 12

While a box full of memories may bolster our spirits as one peruses the contents of such a box, journaling is a deeper dive into ourselves and our relationships with God and each other. Journaling is considered a spiritual practice in that our spirit can be strengthened and our relationship with God deepened. While some write volumes over time, writing just a few sentences a week can be a great beginning to processing how we spend our days and the prayers and meditations we experience. If you were to set a goal for journaling, what would that look like, what is realistic and meaningful? Write your thoughts here and perhaps develop a plan to begin your adventure into journaling.

Wednesday, May 13

Read Habakkuk 3:13-19. In the first chapter of chapter of his prophecy, Habakkuk wondered why at times God seems unfair and then in chapter two, God instructs Habakkuk to listen, to write