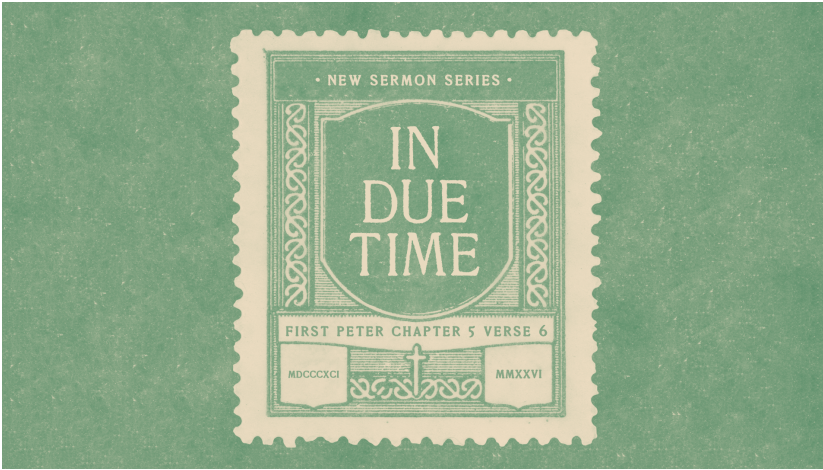


LOOP Study Guide In Due Time: Week 8

Key Scripture:

Habakkuk 2:18-20

Theme: When Idols Replace God.



Main Point:

Everyone worships something. The question isn't *if* we worship — it's *what* we worship.

1. CONNECTION (Start the Conversation)

Icebreaker Question

- What is something people in our culture seem most obsessed with right now?
- What do you think people today chase hoping it will make them happy?

Transition

The final “woe” in Habakkuk confronts something deeper than greed, violence, or manipulation. It addresses the root issue behind them all: **idolatry**.

Idolatry isn't just about statues or images. It's about anything that captures our devotion more than God.

2. SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Read together:

Habakkuk 2:18–20

““What good is an idol carved by man, or a cast image that deceives you? How foolish to trust in your own creation— a god that can't even talk! What sorrow awaits you who say to wooden idols, 'Wake up and save us!' To speechless stone images you say, 'Rise up and teach us!' Can an idol tell you what to do? They may be overlaid with gold and silver, but they are lifeless inside. But the Lord is in his holy Temple. Let all the earth be silent before him.””

Context

The prophet **Habakkuk** warns that idols are lifeless and powerless. They promise satisfaction but never deliver. In contrast, the living God reigns on His throne and speaks with authority.

3. UNDERSTANDING THE FIFTH WOE

In ancient Babylon, people carried physical idols and worshipped them.

Today our idols may look different, but the heart behind them hasn't changed.

Modern idols can include:

- Money
- Success
- Fame
- Reputation
- Performance
- Technology
- Pleasure

None of these things are automatically wrong. But when they become the center of our lives, they become idols.

Key Truth:

An idol is anything we look to for identity, purpose, or satisfaction instead of God.

4. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A. Recognizing Idols

1. Why do you think people are naturally drawn to things that promise pleasure or success?
2. What are some "modern idols" people often chase today?

B. The Problem With Idols

Habakkuk points out something important: idols **cannot speak**.

3. Why do you think success, money, or fame never seem to satisfy people long-term?
4. Have you ever pursued something thinking it would make you happy, only to realize it wasn't enough?

Read **Mark 8:36**

"What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?"

C. Seeing God Clearly

Habakkuk 2:20 shifts the focus:

"But the Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth be silent before Him."

5. How does our view of God affect the way we live and make decisions?
6. Why do you think being still before God can help reset our priorities?

5. APPLICATION

Personal Reflection

Take a moment to ask yourself:

- What gets most of my attention and energy?
- What do I turn to when I feel stressed, insecure, or empty?
- Is there anything in my life competing with God for my devotion?

Practice This Week

Try practicing silence before God for a few minutes each day.

Instead of bringing a list of requests, simply sit in His presence and listen.

Reflect on **Psalm 46:10**

“Be still, and know that I am God.”

Let God reset your perspective.

6. EVERY SOUL • EVERY STREET APPLICATION

When people build their lives around idols:

- They chase approval
- They compete for success
- They measure their worth by achievement

But when people center their lives on God:

- They find identity in Christ
- They live with peace instead of pressure
- They impact others with love and stability

A neighborhood changes when people stop worshipping idols and start worshipping God.

That’s how **Every Soul • Every Street** begins — with hearts that belong fully to Him.

7. CLOSING PRAYER

“Lord, we confess that it is easy for us to place other things at the center of our lives. Forgive us for the times we have pursued success, approval, or pleasure more than You. Help us to see You clearly and to put You back in the center of our lives. Teach us to be still in Your presence and trust that You are God. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

THINGS HAPPENING AT FRESH START CHURCH:

- **Easter Food Drive** - This outreach is part of our ongoing Every Soul Every Street initiative — a commitment to intentionally step beyond our church walls and meet people right where they are. Visit our website or the Church Center app to see items we’d like brought in that will be given out to families in our community.
- **The Table Women’s Gathering** - Sunday, March 22nd. Connecting Fresh Start women of all ages and stages of life for friendship, growth and encouragement. Event is free of charge. Bring a “theme based” appetizer or dessert dish to share. We’ll be getting to know God and each other a little better.

- **Glow in the Dark Easter Egg Hunt** - Friday, March 27th @ 6:30pm. This is for all kids preschool through elementary. Register on the Church Center app. Invite other families to attend with you.
- **Easter Weekend** - Good Friday service @ 7pm. Easter Sunday service times are 9am, 10:30am and 12pm. Begin inviting your friends and family to attend Fresh Start Church on Easter this year!
- **ImpACT Golf Classic Giveaway Baskets** - Our ImpACT golf tournament will benefit the Atlantic City Rescue Mission this year. Our LOOPs are asked to help provide giveaway baskets that will be raffled off this year to help raise more funds.

Here's a message from the tournament's organizer, Jim DiDomenico with more info...

LOOP contribution has continued to make an extraordinary effort by providing IMPACT Auction Basket Prizes. Below is a list of guidelines to help build your basket:

1. The basket prize value minimum of \$80
2. Arrange items in the basket nicely and neatly to show appreciation to auction participants for their support.
3. Don't hesitate to go outside your loop to help build your basket. Great way to extend God's love working through Fresh Start.
4. Creative ideas are wide open, but here are a few past gems: Sport Equipment Basket, Kids Toys Basket, Grilling Basket, Pet Basket, At The Shore Basket, Spa Basket (a gift card can be used to accent the basket)
5. Date to collect baskets is requested to bring Sunday morning at either of the services. Please put inside the big glass room in lobby. Truly Thankful For Coming Alongside Each Classic Mission Event