



Session 9: Hard Questions, Harder Answers
Suggested Week of Use: April 26, 2015
Core Passages: Habakkuk 1:1-6, 12-13; 2:1-4

News Story Summary

On April 13, 2015, Ron Lane, the print shop manager of Wayne Community College (Goldsboro, NC), was killed by a lone gunman. The alleged shooter, Kenneth Morgan Stancil III, had been dismissed from the work study program for poor attendance. Stancil was arrested when he was found sleeping on a Florida beach. While no motive has been expressed, Stancil's mom revealed to a local reporter that the manager had allegedly made unwanted sexual advances toward her son.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the sentence "shooting at NC community college")

Focus Attention

As the group arrives, invite them to share if they believe our culture is more violent today than in the past. As the group shares, call attention to the recent shooting at Wayne Community College.

Ask: What moral and ethical questions are raised by this story? How do you think God views the things going on in our society? What do you think it will take for God to say enough?

Transition: Explain that Habakkuk wrestled with questions of justice and wondering why God was not intervening. Challenge the group to look for Habakkuk's questions of God that surfaced because of what Habakkuk observed in society during today's study.

Challenge

Remind the group of the story about the North Carolina community college shooting. Challenge them to look at their own lives and how they respond to situations they face that cause them to question God. Lead them to reflect on their own hard questions that they ask.

Place the group in pairs. Direct pairs to pray for each other as they ask the hard questions they face in life. Encourage them to turn to God and be humble and willing to receive God's answers.

Close with prayer. Pray that the group will be willing to receive answers from God on the tough issues facing our culture today.