The Essentials: Hope

Session 4: Luke 12:13-21 *and* Habakkuk 3: 17-19

Opening Collect

> *Together:* Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Read: Luke 12:13-21 and Habakkuk 3:17-19

Opening Thought: Why do we need hope? Because Jesus gives us a better hope than any outcome we could manufacture ourselves.

Discussion:

1. How much about our lives do you think we actually control?
2. Jesus' parable teaches us to invest in the things that endure into everlasting life. What do you think those things are? What is Habakkuk's ultimate hope?
3. Jesus tells this parable in the context of a man asking him to demand that his brother divide the family inheritance fairly. What does this man want from Jesus? What does he misunderstand about Jesus?
4. Do you think people use their faith to establish a false sense of control over their lives? Do you? How?
5. How often do you believe in God's absolute provision? Imagine what that might look like, and share with your group.

Check in and Closing Prayer

Luke 12:13-21

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance
with me." 14 But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" 15 And
he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not
consist in the abundance of possessions." 16 Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man
produced abundantly. 17 And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to
store my crops?' 18 Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones,
and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample
goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' 20 But God said to him, 'You fool! This
very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they
be?' 21 So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

Habakkuk 3:17-19

Though the fig tree does not blossom
and no fruit is on the vines;
though the produce of the olive fails
and the fields yield no food;
though the flock is cut off from the fold
and there is no herd in the stalls,
18 yet I will rejoice in the Lord;
I will exult in the God of my salvation.
19 God, the Lord, is my strength;
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer
and makes me tread upon the heights.