



***Haggai: Affirming Our Allegiance
to God's Unchanging Call***
Date: 11/06/2016

Pray Together

Use the first few minutes of your time together to lead your group in a focused prayer time.

- **Praise:** Spend time praising God for who He is.
- **Repent:** Take a few moments to silently confess any sin that is lingering in your heart.
- **Ask:** Verbalize your needs and the needs of others to God.
- **Yield:** Surrender your will to God.

Read Together

The prophet Haggai is the first post-exilic prophet we encounter in the Minor Prophets. Around 538 BC the first wave of Jewish exiles returned to Jerusalem and began the hard work of re-establishing their lives. They built homes, planted fields, made clothes for themselves; the ambitious actions of a newly emancipated people. But one thing had remained: the Temple—the symbolic presence of the Lord among His people—laid in ruins.

The neglect of the Temple was a sign of a much larger matter of the heart. The focus of the people's worship was not the Lord of Hosts, but their own human comforts. The peoples' restless strivings for security and fulfillment caused them to forsake the covenant faithfulness God required. As a consequence the people experienced a diminished harvest, no fulfillment, no comfort, no security, and no blessing (1:6, 10-11).

Haggai calls the people and their leaders to consider their ways (1:5, 7). What are the results of their covenant faithlessness? What is the root cause of their hardships? "My house lies in ruins, while each of you busies himself with his own house" (1:9). God uses this rebuke to stir the heart of the people to return to Him. The people obeyed the word of the Lord, "And the people feared the Lord" (1:12). Now, the God who had withheld His blessing would announce His presence amongst His people: "I am with you, declares the Lord" (1:13).

Outline

1. First Message: Challenge to Covenant Renewal (Haggai 1:1-15)
2. Second Message: The Promise of Restoration (Haggai 2:1-9)
3. Third Message: The Call to Holiness (Haggai 2:10-19)
4. Fourth Message: God Will Finally Triumph (2:20-23)

Discuss Together

Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion.

- As you study Haggai, identify the most significant questions you need to answer to better understand its message.
- The Triune God is always the main character of Scripture. What does the book of Haggai teach us about God?



- Knowing what Haggai teaches us about God, what does the book teach us about humanity?
- Rebuilding the Temple of God was more than a simple infrastructure project; it symbolized God's presence in the midst of His covenant people. However, the returning exiles chose to pursue other things—good things—to the neglect of the best thing: restoring God's glory in their presence (1:2-4, 9). For over 20 years the temple lay in ruins and the people lived restless and broken lives (1:5-6, 9-11). When you have neglected your relationship with Christ, how have you experienced restlessness and brokenness?
- Consider your ways. Write down actions and activities you regularly partake in during a typical week of your life. Describe how those activities are evidence of priorities and values in your life. If a trusted friend were to review your list, would they see Gospel priority in your life? How?
- Read Haggai 1:12-15. After a piercing rebuke, Scripture says the people obeyed and feared the Lord their God (1:12). The Lord would pour out His covenant blessing upon His people, beginning with the promise of His presence among them (1:13). Why was it significant that the Lord's presence be the first blessing the people experienced? Have you received a spiritual rebuke that led to repentance? Describe how the Lord's presence became a blessing to you.
- Comparison kills faithfulness. Read Haggai 2:1-9. Sometimes we don't trust the future that God is leading us to because we love the memory of what God did in the past. How did God respond to the Jews who loved the temple in its former glory? Discuss a time when God was leading you to a new level of faithfulness or a new area of Kingdom service but you were reluctant, even disobedient.
- How should the Body of Christ "go there" with the message of Haggai? How do you personally need to "go there" with this message?

Do Life Together

These questions are designed to be asked in a smaller group of 2-4 people. The smaller setting will provide better opportunity for authentic responses. In your smaller group time, take notes to help others remain accountable to their answers. Grow together!

- How is God calling you to exchange doom for everlasting hope?
- How has Jesus already provided hope in this area?
- Who do you need to share this hope with this week?

Pray Together

Pray through Revelation 21:1-4, 22.

