

HAGGAI 1:1-11

GETTING STARTED...

The prophet Haggai is one of the most surprising stories in our Bibles. Not simply because of his forthright style of speaking God's words, but because the people listen to what he says! Haggai speaks to the people of Judah after they have returned from exile in Babylon. They have been sent home to rebuild the city, but after 18 years the temple remains unfinished. Haggai's message is a simple one, build the Temple of God. However, as we uncover his message there is far more to it than that. It is not a simple building project that God is after, but hearts that are fully devoted to Him. As we look at the reasons for why the building of the Temple was neglected we are confronted with a very human reason, the people had begun to pay more attention to themselves than to God. As we seek to follow God, the same danger exists, and the same call to devote our lives fully to Him.

READ THE TEXT: HAGGAI 1:1-11

In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the Lord came by the hand of Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest: ² "Thus says the Lord of hosts: These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord." ³ Then the word of the Lord came by the hand of Haggai the prophet, ⁴ "Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins? ⁵ Now, therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways. ⁶ You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes. ⁷ "Thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways. ⁸ Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified, says the Lord. ⁹ You looked for much, and behold, it came to little. And when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? declares the Lord of hosts. Because of my house that lies in ruins, while each of you busies himself with his own house. ¹⁰ Therefore the heavens above you have withheld the dew, and the earth has

withheld its produce. ¹¹ And I have called for a drought on the land and the hills, on the grain, the new wine, the oil, on what the ground brings forth, on man and beast, and on all their labors.”

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. Take some time to understand the context of the book and look at Ezra 1:1-3, 3:1-2, 3:10, 4:4-5, 5:1-2.
2. Twice Haggai calls them to “Consider their ways,” how does this phrase help give structure to Haggai’s message? What have they been doing? What do they need to be doing?

REFLECTING ON THE SERMON

3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been impressing on your heart from the sermon?

APPLYING THE POINT

5. How do we put this into practice?

Agassiz Why was rebuilding the Old Testament temple so important to God? Why were the people not doing it? How did that rebuilding foreshadow Jesus and the church? In what ways are you contributing to the work of the temple? If you are not contributing, how could you begin, and what excuses do you need to overcome?

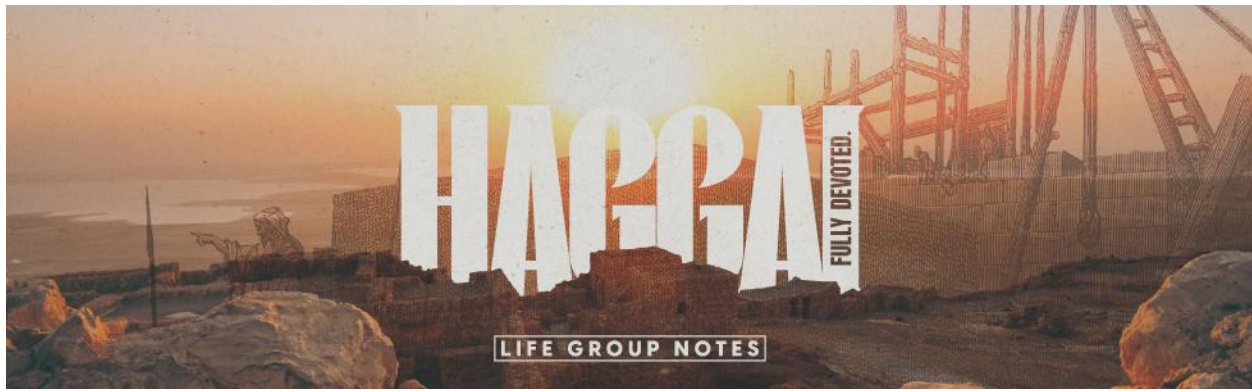
Chilliwack Because talk can be cheap, money is often the single-greatest indicator of the quality of your faith. Does the way you view and spend money reflect your faith in God and putting Him first?

Harrison/Lake Errock The LORD delayed calling those in Jerusalem to action through the prophet Haggai for almost two decades after work on rebuilding the temple halted. This is a demonstration of God’s patience and grace. How have you experienced God’s patience and grace in calling you to repent and reprioritize areas in your life to align with God’s ways?

Promontory What are priorities in your life that you can easily put before God? How can you fight against that? What are ways in which you are intentionally using to build the Kingdom of God?

PRAYING & SHARING

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer? An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help facilitate Central Life Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Life Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God.**

The Life Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word*, *Reflecting on the Sermon*, and *Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

While the meaning of a text doesn't change, the way that we are called to apply it may look different from campus to campus, and even person to person. To reflect this distinction, you will see application questions from each campus in this guide.

Start with the question(s) from your campus and then look at others to see if they are helpful for your group. You may be surprised how similar or different they end up being and how the diversity brings a fuller understanding to how we can apply the Word of God.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*“Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.” - Psalm 111:2*