

HAGGAI 2:1-9

GETTING STARTED...

Have you ever been disappointed with your work? Probably everyone at some point in their lives has looked at what they are doing and wondered why bother? Everyone faces disappointment at some point in their life. And in the Christian life we can face disappointment in lots of different ways. Whether it doesn't feel like we are growing, or that our service isn't producing anything. This is how the Jewish remnant felt rebuilding the Temple, it wasn't going to be as good, and it wouldn't be worth doing. Yet God calls them to continue in their work, because He was with them. God's presence with us gives us the strength and he promises that he holds the future. While we might not always see the immediate results of our work, God is with us and holds the future.

READ THE TEXT: HAGGAI 2:1-9

In the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the Lord came by the hand of Haggai the prophet: ² "Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to all the remnant of the people, and say, ³ 'Who is left among you who saw this house in its former glory? How do you see it now? Is it not as nothing in your eyes? ⁴ Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, declares the Lord. Be strong, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land, declares the Lord. Work, for I am with you, declares the Lord of hosts, ⁵ according to the covenant that I made with you when you came out of Egypt. My Spirit remains in your midst. Fear not. ⁶ For thus says the Lord of hosts: Yet once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land. ⁷ And I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the Lord of hosts. ⁸ The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the Lord of hosts. ⁹ The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the Lord of hosts.' "

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. Why does Haggai repeat the command "be strong" three times in this passage? What is the reason given for the command?
2. Verse 9 gives a promise for what this new Temple will be like, what is it? How is this promise fulfilled? Look at Mark 13:1-2 and John 2:18-22.

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?

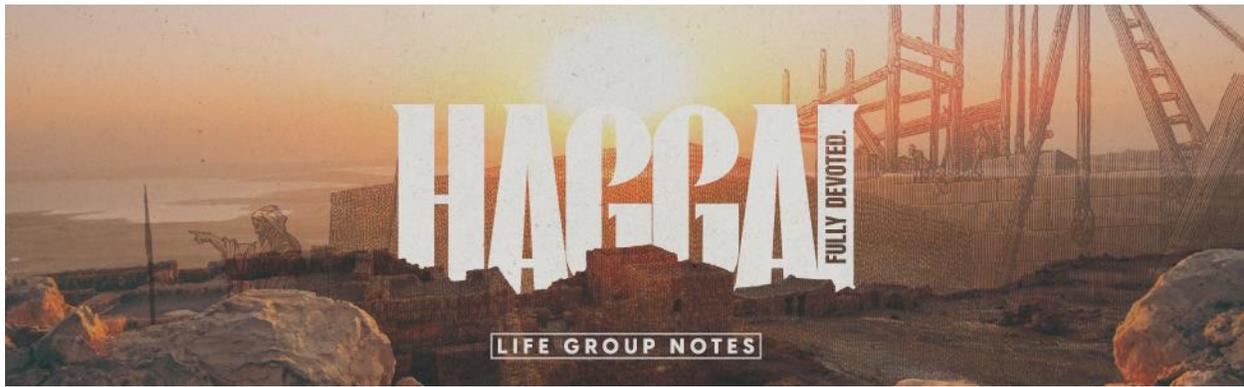
*Harrison/
Agassiz/Lake
Errock* What part of your life typically brings you the most discouragement? How do God's promises of his presence with you and the hope of eternity in His presence in glory encourage you to persevere?

Chilliwack Just as the people couldn't help but compare the temple they were rebuilding with the glory of the former temple, comparison can discourage and even debilitate us from doing the Lord's work. Share your own vulnerabilities around comparison. Follow that up by reflecting on the present ("*I am with you*") and future ("*the latter glory...shall be greater than the former*") encouragements found in this text and fulfilled in Christ.

Promontory What are areas in your spiritual life where it is easy to get discouraged? How does the presence of God encourage us today? How do the promises of God give us hope for the future?

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*