

Haggai

“Build God’s house”

July 11, 2021 Background and introduction of key characters (1:1)
July 18, 2021 First message: Put first things first (1:2-15)
July 25, 2021 Second message: Find strength in God’s promises (2:1-9)
August 8, 2021 Third and fourth messages: Trust in God for blessings (2:10-23)

Opening prayer: Lord, even though we have your promises to be with us and to bless us, we keep falling back into our selfish ways. Forgive us. Focus now our thoughts on your Word so that we follow through with the work you have entrusted to us as your chosen people. Amen.

Review exercise: Work with a partner or people at your table to complete your assigned task.

A. North side group: A Bible commentator wrote, “God’s work, done God’s way, will never lack God’s supply” (Hudson Taylor). Find passages in the book of Haggai that show this assessment to be correct.

B. South side group: Think of *one* commonly used excuse for not giving proportionately and sacrificially to the Lord. Write it here:

Role play: pick someone who will defend that position (person 1); pick someone who will argue against that position citing stewardship principles from Haggai (person 2).

In Haggai 2:9, the LORD of hosts says, “The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house. And in this place I will grant peace.”

1. According to this passage, what really makes a church “beautiful” to the Lord?

2. Respond: Bjorn says that since it’s God’s Word of forgiveness that makes a church “beautiful,” we should just spend our offerings on getting the Word out and not on erecting a costly building in which to worship or study his Word.

Haggai 2:10-19 *Warning issued; blessings promised*

3. Compare Haggai 2:1 with Haggai 2:10. How long had it been since Haggai’s previous message to the Israelites?

4. What was the point of Haggai’s questions regarding ceremonial cleanliness?

5. What repeated phrase in Haggai 2:15-19 shows that God wanted an *immediate* change in the attitude and actions of his people?

6. Agree or disagree and explain: It’s surprising that Haggai had to encourage the people *again* to put the Lord first and to get to work rebuilding the temple.

7. How did God motivate his people to get back to rebuilding the temple? (See Haggai 2:19b.) How should church leaders today motivate God’s people to follow through with God’s work?

Next week we will begin a new topic:

DISCOVERING YOUR
Spiritual Gifts
For The Kingdom

Pinch yourself. Did you feel that? As a living, breathing person God has given you at least one spiritual gift. Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? Do you know how best to use them for God's glory and the benefit of someone else? Join us for this study on "spiritual gifts" in order to discover yours and to help you use them in service.

Sundays at 9:15 a.m. (August 15, 22, 29) in the fellowship hall.

Mondays at 7:35 p.m. (August 16, 23, 30) in the fellowship hall.

No need to register; just show up.