



Group Guide

Haggai

September 22, 2024

Main Passage: Haggai 1:1-4,7-15; 2:15-23

Theological Theme

When God's people put Him first, they experience the blessings of the Lord. When they focus on selfish endeavors first, they are never satisfied.

Introduction

- ❓ When have you ever experienced a renovation or rebuild with issues that delayed the timeline?
- ❓ How does it make you feel to see your plans changed and prolonged?
- ❓ What helps you stay focused on the task at hand and not get overwhelmed by discouragement?

1. Wrong Priorities (Haggai 1:1-4)

To glean the most possible from this book of the Bible, it is important to know as much as possible about the day and time in which it occurred. Cyrus the Great was king of Persia, and he allowed a group of Israelites to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. The high priest of the day was Jeshua or Joshua and Zerubbabel was the local ruler in Judah. These were the main men leading the people in the rebuilding efforts as they worked to reestablish their city, land, and people.

- ❓ What struggles would you expect the people to have as they faced the rebuilding process after exile?
- ❓ What are some ways we might try and make spiritual sounding excuses for disobedience to the Lord? How can we assess these moments soberly?
- ❓ Application: How can you discern where your priorities truly lie? How can you invite others in to help you in this process?

2. God's Instructions (Haggai 1:7-15)

After calling out their misplaced priorities and excuses for disobedience, God gave Haggai words of instruction. God doesn't just call out our sin, He also gives the steps we need to take to be restored. Because the Lord cares that our priorities are in line with His will, He leads us to fix the issue just as He did with the Israelites.

- ❓ What stands out to you from what Haggai said to the people on God's behalf?
- ❓ What are some ways you see the church of today struggling with the same misplaced priorities as the Israelites? How do you struggle with these things personally?
- ❓ Application: Where do you need the Lord to stir up your spirit with His encouragement and strength today?

3. Promised Blessing (Haggai 2:15-23)

These verses remind us difficulties don't automatically draw us closer to God. How we respond to times of chastening either bring us closer to God or not. God promised to bless the people if they would put their priorities in the right order with Him first. This was a challenge for that day and today. We easily get caught up in life and less important matters while letting our relationship with the Lord slide away.

- ❓ How have you experienced difficulties bringing you closer to God or pulling you further away according to your response?
- ❓ When have you trusted that you were on the winning side with the Lord even if it didn't appear so at the time? When have you failed to trust this?
- ❓ Application: Where are you most challenged or encouraged by the passages we've studied today?

Conclusion

- ❓ What tempts you to lose focus on the Lord and give your attention to things of less importance?
- ❓ How can we as a group help keep each other focused on the things God has called us to daily?
- ❓ How do right priorities and focus on the Lord make us more attentive to opportunities for gospel conversations with others?