

PROPHETS

Community Group Discussion Guide
July 3, 2016
Unfinished Assignment | Haggai 1 & 2

INTRODUCTION

Is there some unfinished task or assignment in your life that you are continually putting off and putting off? What has taken away your motivation? Over 2500 years ago, the Jewish people found themselves in a similar position. The Temple had been destroyed; and after their return from exile, they were tasked with rebuilding it. The work stalled, however, when opposition arose. God speaks to us the same way he spoke to the Jewish people through Haggai. He says, "Be strong, do not fear, and get to work! I am with you."

QUESTIONS FOR STUDY

1. (Icebreaker question) What project, task, or assignment in your life have you been putting off for a long period of time? Why is that?
2. Read Haggai 1:2-3 and summarize in a sentence or two what the primary problem is that Haggai has been sent to confront.
3. Why was the Temple so important to the Jewish religion?
4. So the people in Haggai's day had gotten their priorities out of order. In what ways are your or your families' priorities out of order?
5. How important is your material comfort to you? Would you be willing to give it up for the sake of the gospel?
6. At a certain point, the people in Haggai's day were discouraged by the new Temple seeming to be insignificant compared to Solomon's Temple. How much (or how often) do you fall into the "comparison trap"? What can be done to help us out of this?
7. In general, if you're a Christian, how are you doing at living for the Lord? What are some of the basic disciplines that are important for any Christian?
8. When it comes to our lack of obedience at times, what are some motivations that would lead us to change our hearts and obey?
9. How does God promise to help us when we work hard for His glory? (See Haggai 2:4-9)
10. Why is there no Temple now—in the New Testament or for us today? What does this mean for the place where we meet with God? (See John 2:19-21 & Rev. 21:22)
11. Christians today are not to invest their time and money in a Temple. Rather, they're called to build up the church (2 Cor. 8:1-9). Keeping in mind the fact that the "church" is the gathered people, not the building, how can Christians today build up the church?
12. With God's help, and together as a church, what are we building with our lives?



This week's readings
(July 4 - 10)

Mon - Nehemiah 4-6

Tues - Nehemiah 7-9

Wed - Nehemiah 10-11

Thurs - Nehemiah 12-13

Fri - Haggai

Sat - Zechariah 1-4

Sun - Zechariah 5-8