

## Small Group Discussion Questions for Jan 20

### “Is it Time?”

#### Series: “Think Again”

**Ice Breaker** – Have you ever gone back to see a house you lived in or a school you attended or a restaurant you frequented and found it empty and abandoned? How did you react? What did you feel?

#### Group Discussion Questions:

**1. Read Haggai 1:1-2.** Were the Jews refusing to rebuild God’s temple? (no) What were they saying? (It’s not the right time to rebuild) What tasks do you tend to put off because of time? What spiritual activities do we tend to put off because of time?

**2. Read Haggai 1:3-6.** The Jews weren’t lazy. They were working hard just to earn a living. But they kept coming up short. Why? What was wrong? (They weren’t doing what God wanted them to do. They weren’t doing the right thing) Do you have an example of a time you worked hard, but you weren’t doing the right thing?

**3. Read Haggai 1:7-8.** Why did God want the temple rebuilt? (for His pleasure and honor) How would a rebuilt temple bring “pleasure and honor” to God? (the gathered worship of His people would bring Him pleasure and the witness to the nations would bring Him honor) What are our visible reminders of God’s presence and glory? How can we bring glory to God? (Suggestions in the sermon were corporate worship and fellowship; Bible reading and prayer; personal witness; and visible symbols. The group may have other ideas.)

**4. Read Haggai 1:9-11.** What was God’s explanation of why life had been so hard for the returned exiles? (Because they hadn’t made the rebuilding of the temple a priority) Why do you think the Jews hadn’t understood this? (It seems they had become complacent and so comfortable with the status quo that they didn’t even realize they were under God’s discipline) Pastor Jeff said, “God’s discipline isn’t usually a lightning strike, more often it’s a withholding of the rain.” What are some ways God might “withhold the rain” in our lives in order to get our attention and draw us back into His will?

**5.** What is “complacency”? Do you see evidence of it in this passage? In what way can complacency be a spiritual problem for us?

#### Action Steps:

1. Are there difficulties in your life that may be a result of sin or disobedience? If so, confess that sin and get back on the right track.
2. Is there a “temple” you can erect in your life that will remind you of God’s presence and will show others that you are honoring Him?