

Small Group Discussion Questions for Feb 10 Sermon
“From Blight to Blessing”
Series: “Think Again”
Text: Haggai 2:10-19

Icebreaker: If you have a “turn-around” story, share it. Perhaps a time you found yourself on the wrong trail or on the wrong road and had to turn around, go back and find your way.

Discussion Questions:

1. **Read and/or review the story up to this point (Haggai 1:1 – 2:9).** The exiled Jews who had returned to Jerusalem from Babylon in 536 BC were finally getting back to God’s work of rebuilding the temple in 520 BC. But even as they got back on track with God’s will, there were lessons God wanted them to learn through Haggai. As the prophet receives another message from God in 2:10, how long has it been since the last message? How long since they started rebuilding the temple? Why does God strike up this quiz with the priests?
2. **Read Haggai 2:11-14.** What is the point of God’s quiz? What all had been defiled by their disobedience? How does this apply to us? Do we become righteous by hanging out with righteous people? How does sin infect our lives?
3. **Read Haggai 2:15-17.** What does God want them to “think again” about? Why had God struck their crops with blight, mildew and hail? How do you feel about remembering the mistakes in your past? How can we set up “bell buoys” (like Pastor Jeff described) and learn from our mistakes?
4. **Read Haggai 2:18-19.** Why does God keep reminding them of their struggle and the sad results of their disobedience? This message came three months after the Jews began rebuilding. Why hadn’t God filled their barns and put fruit on their trees? Give an example of a time when you obeyed God and had to wait for changes to come. What other steps of obedience usually require patient faith to see results?
5. **Talk about the last phrase of verse 19.** God says, “From this day on I will bless you.” What do you think that blessing looked like? Would it be physical? Material? Agricultural? Spiritual? What’s the blessing of God that you long for?

Action Steps:

1. Create a “bell buoy” for yourself this week. Find a way to remind yourself about potential temptations and weaknesses so that there are sufficient warnings before falling into a pattern of sin or falling out of God’s will.
2. Practice patience! Choose one blessing of God that you need in your life and make that request a daily prayer. Keep praying consistently and patiently. (Could be for the salvation of a family member or friend; for a relationship to be repaired; for a habit to break or a habit to begin; for a character trait to work on; etc.).