

Small Group Discussion Questions for February 3

Haggai 2:1-9

Series: “Think Again”

Ice Breaker – Haggai 2:1-9 focuses on discouragement and how the remedy for discouragement is the glory of God. What discouragements have you faced recently? Do you find that discouragement is something you rarely experience or do you find yourself frequently experiencing discouragement?

The people of Israel had returned to rebuild the Lord’s temple. You’ll remember they had been sidetracked and the rebuilding of the temple had been put on hold while the Jews became distracted with the business of life.

We find ourselves in chapter 2 and the rebuilding has begun again but some of the people are discouraged because this temple does not seem like it’s going to be as splendid as the first. It seems like this work won’t be as significant as the first work.

1. **Read Haggai 2:1-3** The Lord speaks to Haggai and wants to address those specifically who had been around long enough to have seen Solomon’s temple. Read Ezra 3:10-13. Why were the older people discouraged? How can comparison lead to discouragement? How can the temptation to compare cause us to exchange the glory of God for the glory of what God has done?
2. **Read Haggai 2:4-5** The Lord commands the people to be strong and to work and not be afraid. How can God confidently command this of us? Why should we delight in the “task at hand”? The Lord is a covenant keeper. What were the benefits of His faithfulness for the Jews? What are the benefits of His faithfulness for us?
3. **Read Haggai 2:6-9** The Lord concludes this speech to the people by casting the people’s gaze to the future. What were the immediate events in the future that the Lord was speaking of? How would the temple be filled with glory in the near future? There was another glory that the Lord was pointing to as a future glory. What was it? How will the latter glory of this house be greater than the glory of Solomon’s temple? How would the Lord ultimately give peace?

Action Steps:

1. If you are currently discouraged, take a moment to reflect on how God’s glory can benefit you. Are you comparing things He’s done in the past to what is happening currently in your life? Do you see from Haggai 2:1-9 how God is at work even

when you may not see it? Seek God for God, not for what He has done or even what He might do!

2. Do you realize how bright the future is in Christ? Jesus has brought us peace and now extends peace to all who would turn from their sin in repentance and believe that He alone can give them fellowship with God. Have you trusted in Him alone? If so, be thankful for what God has you doing now and trust Him that He is working for His glory and your good. Do you have friends or family who need to hear about this peace offered by Jesus? Share with them how they can know peace through Jesus.