

Small Group Discussion Questions for Jan 27 Sermon

“When God Stirs”

Series: “Think Again”

Icebreaker:

Have you ever started a project, set it aside for a time, and then come back to it with new vigor and enthusiasm? Tell the group about it and how you felt when you got going again. Perhaps this is how the Jews felt in our passage!

Discussion Questions:

1. **Read Haggai 1:1-12.** How would you describe the response of the leaders and the people in this passage? (humble, repentant, submissive) How different is this from the way the Israelites typically responded to prophets in the OT? (more often they ignored or despised the prophets of God)
2. For the people of Judah, repentance involved acknowledging that God had sent Haggai to them with this message and agreeing that God was right and they had been wrong. What is our typical response when we’re confronted with our sin? (we defend ourselves or deflect the blame on someone or something else; or we just ignore the conviction) What’s the result when we do this? (we don’t repent, we don’t experience forgiveness, we stay off track and we miss out on God’s blessings)
3. **Haggai 1:12** tells us “the people feared the Lord.” What does this mean? (healthy respect and reverence for God’s holiness) Why is the fear of the Lord a critical part of repentance? (because it causes us to hate our sin and desire God’s will; see also Prov 8:13) Pastor Jeff said “True worship prepares us for active obedience.” Can you give an example of this?
4. **Read Haggai 1:13-15.** This is God’s response to the people’s repentance. What’s significant about God’s one sentence message here? Why was this so important for the exiles to hear? (they had no temple, ark or glory cloud; no visible display of God’s presence, so they needed this promise) God promises to be with us as we step into obedience. Very practically, how does that promise help you to obey God?
5. Haggai tells us that the Lord “stirred up” their spirits. What does that mean? (probably to encourage and motivate them in their work) How does God do this in our lives? (through the Holy Spirit, Eph 5:18) Describe a time you sensed God’s Spirit stirring your spirit.

6. How do we build God's temple today? Read I Cor 6:19-20, I Peter 2:5 and Ephesians 2:19-22 and talk about what it means for us to be the temple of God now.

Action Steps:

1. If God is calling you back to a spiritual building project He wants to do in His temple (your life, your body, your family, your relationships), then agree with Him and worship Him by committing yourself to that work. He will be with you and will stir you!
2. If God is calling you to build His temple, the church, then agree with Him and worship Him and volunteer to serve! He will be with you and will stir you!