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## ***HAGGAI 2:10-23***

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### **GETTING STARTED...**

The story of Haggai is one of resurrection. God has taken a people who were dead in their exile and he has raised them to new life. And as we wrap up the book of Haggai we find that God has one final message for these people as they build the Temple. It is a reminder of his unfailing grace and faithfulness. While the people themselves had been stained by sin and their work could never atone for their sins, yet God would be gracious to them. While there is every reason for God to abandon them, he is faithful to his promises, and the people can depend on him. As we devote ourselves to the work that God has called us to, let us depend upon his unfailing grace and mercy given to us at the cross.

### **READ THE TEXT: HAGGAI 2:10-23**

<sup>10</sup> On the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet, <sup>11</sup> "Thus says the Lord of hosts: Ask the priests about the law: <sup>12</sup> 'If someone carries holy meat in the fold of his garment and touches with his fold bread or stew or wine or oil or any kind of food, does it become holy?' " The priests answered and said, "No." <sup>13</sup> Then Haggai said, "If someone who is unclean by contact with a dead body touches any of these, does it become unclean?" The priests answered and said, "It does become unclean." <sup>14</sup> Then Haggai answered and said, "So is it with this people, and with this nation before me, declares the Lord, and so with every work of their hands. And what they offer there is unclean. <sup>15</sup> Now then, consider from this day onward. Before stone was placed upon stone in the temple of the Lord, <sup>16</sup> how did you fare? When one came to a heap of twenty measures, there were but ten. When one came to the wine vat to draw fifty measures, there were but twenty. <sup>17</sup> I struck you and all the products of your toil with blight and with mildew and with hail, yet you did not turn to me, declares the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Consider from this day onward, from the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month. Since the day that the foundation of the Lord's temple was laid, consider: <sup>19</sup> Is the seed yet in the barn? Indeed, the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate, and the olive tree have yielded nothing. But from this day on I will bless you."

<sup>20</sup> The word of the Lord came a second time to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month, <sup>21</sup> "Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I am about to shake the heavens and the earth, <sup>22</sup> and to overthrow the throne of kingdoms. I am about to destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the nations, and overthrow the chariots and their riders. And the horses and their riders shall go down, every one by the sword of his brother. <sup>23</sup> On that day, declares the Lord of hosts, I will take you, O Zerubbabel my servant, the son of Shealtiel, declares the Lord, and make you like a signet ring, for I have chosen you, declares the Lord of hosts."

## UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. What is Haggai trying to teach the people by asking the priests these questions? (vs 12-13) How does it relate to the people building the Temple?
2. What is the importance of Zerubbabel being a signet ring at this point in Judah's history? Look at God's promise to King David in 2 Samuel 7:12-16 and how it gets fulfilled in Matthew 1:12-13 and Luke 1:31-33.

## REFLECTING ON THE SERMON

3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been impressing on your heart from the sermon?

## APPLYING THE POINT

5. How do we put this into practice?

*Agassiz* Share about a time when you thought that God would bless you...and nothing seemed to happen. How did you deal with this? What did you learn from this experience?

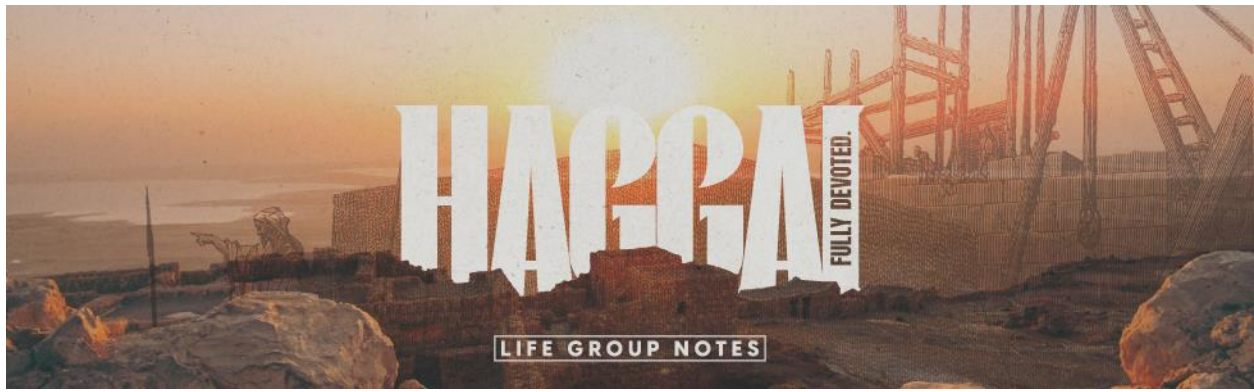
*Chilliwack* In what ways do we see how humanity overestimates what it can achieve without God? How do we stay humble, whether we are in times of suffering or blessing? What does it look like for you to experience the spiritual blessings in Christ that God has promised us?

*Harrison/Lake Errock* What does it mean, or look like, to be faithful to God in difficult seasons, and how can we encourage each other to trust God in those difficult moments? How does understanding God's faithfulness in the past help us trust Him in our current struggles or future challenges?

*Promontory* In what ways are you tempted to trust in your works for your salvation? How does God's grace give us both humility and greater confidence in our salvation in Jesus? What does submission to Jesus look like in light of the grace he has given?

## PRAYING & SHARING

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer?  
An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



## How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help facilitate Central Life Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Life Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God.**

The Life Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word*, *Reflecting on the Sermon*, and *Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

While the meaning of a text doesn't change, the way that we are called to apply it may look different from campus to campus, and even person to person. To reflect this distinction, you will see application questions from each campus in this guide.

Start with the question(s) from your campus and then look at others to see if they are helpful for your group. You may be surprised how similar or different they end up being and how the diversity brings a fuller understanding to how we can apply the Word of God.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*"Great are the works of the LORD,  
studied by all who delight in them." - Psalm 111:2*