

Reflection and Discussion

Sermon Series	Major Lessons from the Minor Prophets
Sermon Title	Hang in there!
Bible Texts	Haggai
Date	July 2, 2023

CONNECT – Getting to know one another

- Question 1: Do you find it easy to procrastinate when a big job around the house is begging to be done?
- Question 2: What has been your top priority in recent months? Has this focus been a good or bad influence on your spiritual growth?
- Question 3: What causes a person to seek his personal kingdom before God's kingdom?

EQUIP – Understanding God's word

A life out of balance - Haggai 1:1-11

- Question 4: Where had the Jewish people focused their efforts after their return to Jerusalem following years of exile?
- Question 5: How was God trying to get the people's attention for the task at hand?
- Question 6: The prophet Haggai warned Israel to consider their ways. How do we do this? Why should we do this?
- Question 7: List the consequences the people suffered for having focused on their own interests first.

God spoke and they listened - Haggai 1:12-15

- Question 8: The people feared the Lord after they heard the prophet's message. Why do you think they heeded God's message this time?
- Question 9: What do you find encouraging in the people's response to God's words revealed in the prophesy given to Haggai?
- Question 10: What message of encouragement did God give the people when they turned back to him?
- Question 11: How did God help the people's efforts once they turned their focus on God's work?

When God brings glory to himself - Haggai 2:1-9

- Question 12: In what way is the new temple superior to the place of worship it replaced?
- Question 13: Why will the glory of the rebuilt temple be greater than the former temple?
- Question 14: What is the true glory of God's temple? (2 Chronicles 7:1, Isaiah 6:1)

Personal blessings from obedience - Haggai 2:15-19

- Question 15: What blessings will the people have moving forward from the day the temple's foundation is laid (2:18-19)?
- Question 16: How does the promise in 2:18-19 compare with what Jesus taught in Matthew 6:31-34?
- Question 17: God promised the temple's future glory (2:1) two months before he promised personal blessings to the people (2:18). What does this teach us about priorities and motivation?

DISCIPLESHIP – Becoming and doing

- Question 18: How can we consistently keep God at the center of our lives? Is there a way we can encourage others—and ourselves—to maintain a God-centered focus?
- Question 19: How have you been blessed when you have returned your focus to God after a time of misplaced priorities?
- Question 20: Jesus taught us in Matthew 6:33 to seek God's kingdom first. Is there an area of your life that needs refocusing to seek God's kingdom first over your own?
- Question 21: Will you prayerfully consider what is most important to you? And then secondly, does it provide eternal value?
- Question 22: The Lord takes pleasure in a life that brings glory to God. How can your life give God glory throughout the next week?