FINANCIAL FREEDOM *that lasts*

LIFE GROUPS

WEEK 1 • OCT 12

NORTHSHORE'S COMPELLING STATEMENT

Hope changes everything.

ICE BREAKER

Have you ever wondered how fast money comes in and then goes out? What example would you like to share?

BACKGROUND

The book of Haggai's context is one of post-exile setting, around 520 BC, for the Jews that had recently returned from the Babylonian exile. At this time, the construction of the second temple in Jerusalem had been halted for 15 years, with people preoccupied with their own affairs.

Haggai 1:4-6 is focused on encouraging the Jews to reflect on their actions and recognize that their struggles are stemming from misplaced priorities. The reason they were not comfortable was because they had not prioritized God's honor and glory in completing the temple.

In the same way, when we receive money and do not have our priorities in place to honor God with it, we can experience the discomfort of not knowing where the money is going and feeling a lack of control. In essence, the money is managing us versus us managing our money. Per Haggai 1:5, *Give careful thought to your ways*. How are our ways in managing our money affecting us and what God would want for us?

REVIEW

What was meaningful from the above context or the sermon from last Sunday?

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KEY VERSES: Haggai 1:6

You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes.

READ: Haggai 1:4-6

HEAD LEVEL: *What does it say? These help us to examine what the Word tells us.*

1. In Haggai 1:4, what house is Haggai referring to when it is said, *...while the house remains a ruin*?

2. What examples does the Lord use to convey a sense of *lacking* in verse 6?

HEART LEVEL: *What does it mean? These questions help us shape our beliefs around the objective truth of God's word.*

1. From your perspective, what does it mean when Haggai says, *"Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses..."* (v. 4)?

2. What could it mean to "Give careful thought to your ways" (v. 5 NIV)? Why are we told to be careful?

3. What does it mean to prioritize honoring God with our money?

4. From the examples of what it means to lack in verse 6, what are some ways that you have experienced lacking?

DEEPER DISCOVERY:

How can you apply the following verses as you manage the resources that God has given you?

- Proverbs 21:20
- Proverbs 21:5
- Hebrews 13:5

HANDS LEVEL: *What does it mean to me? These questions help us commit to live out the truth in our everyday lives and commit to potential next steps.*

1. What are some ways you can be more careful in honoring God with your money like the Jews needed to with the temple reconstruction?

2. How do we encourage each other in this area considering the topic of money which can be a private and personal topic?

MEMORY VERSE: Haggai 1:4-6

"Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins? Now, therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways. You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes."

PRAYER REQUESTS

(Please remember that these requests are confidential and need to stay within the group.)