



House Church Gathering Discussion Questions

Sunday November 9 “THE INVITATION BEFORE THE SEASON”

Haggai 1:15b-2:9

On the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month. In the second year of King Darius, 2 1 on the twenty-first day of the seventh month, the word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai: 2 “Speak to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, to Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people. Ask them, 3 ‘Who of you is left who saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Does it not seem to you like nothing? 4 But now be strong, Zerubbabel,’ declares the Lord. ‘Be strong, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land,’ declares the Lord, ‘and work. For I am with you,’ declares the Lord Almighty. 5 ‘This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear.’ 6 “This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. 7 I will shake all nations, and what is desired by all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,’ says the Lord Almighty. 8 ‘The silver is mine and the gold is mine,’ declares the Lord Almighty. 9 ‘The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,’ says the Lord Almighty. ‘And in this place I will grant peace,’ declares the Lord Almighty.”

Background: “How early is too early to start playing Christmas music?” Most people mark the beginning of Advent—or Christmas prep—by dates and decorations. But God often invites us to start before the season begins. In Haggai 1:15b–2:9, God speaks to a people standing in an in-between season—after the return from exile, but before the restoration is complete. It’s like standing in November before the glow of Christmas—hope is coming, but not yet visible. God’s invitation comes before the season begins—He calls us to lean forward in hope, strength, and trust, even when everything feels unfinished.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do we stay hopeful and faithful when we’re in seasons that feel unfinished or not yet fulfilled—like waiting for Christmas, or waiting for God to answer a prayer?
2. What’s something you could do now—before the season officially begins—to bring hope, joy, or encouragement to others? How might “starting early” with kindness or gratitude change how you experience the holidays?