

NEXT STEPS

The people in Haggai's day were discouraged because their new temple seemed small and insignificant compared to Solomon's. Yet God promised that the glory of this new house would be even greater—and that promise was fulfilled when Jesus, the Messiah, entered it. Jesus Himself is the greater glory and the true temple, where God's presence now dwells among and within His people. When we stay faithful and focused on His Kingdom, God can use our obedience in ways far beyond what we can see.

Where might God be calling you to stay faithful and focused so that His greater glory can shine through your life?

1ST
THINGS
1ST

PRAYER REQUESTS

What/who can you be praying for this week?

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TALK IT OVER

Talk It Over Questions

For the week of October 19, 2025

Look Ahead

Haggai 2:1-9

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

MY STORY

Discouragement often comes when we compare our present to the past or to others, forgetting that memory can both bless and burden us. To move forward, we must release what was and focus on what God is doing now.

When have you found yourself looking back instead of looking ahead?

It's easy to romanticize the past and overlook how God is working in the present, even through what seems small or insignificant. Focusing on negatives, comparisons, and criticism only hinders progress and discourages others from doing God's work.

When have you caught yourself focusing on what's wrong instead of noticing what God is doing right now?

DIGGING DEEPER

It's easy to criticize and lose heart, but God calls us to be strong—to trust His strength when our own fails. Just as He reminded Israel that His Spirit was still with them, God reminds us today that His presence empowers and sustains us through discouragement. Read the following passage and answer the corresponding question.

Haggai 2:1-9

How does knowing that God's Spirit remains with you—just as in Haggai 2:1-9—encourage you to stay strong when you feel weary or uncertain?

Jesus, our Emmanuel, is the living promise that God is always with us—never leaving, never forsaking, and forever loving us. Through His Spirit who lives within us, we have forgiveness, guidance, strength, and assurance that every promise of God is unbreakable. Read the following passages and answer the corresponding question.

Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5; Romans 8:31-39; John 6:8

What promise of God do you most need to hold on to right now?

God has called each of us to be strong, to do the work He's given us, and to live without fear—trusting that His Kingdom work lasts forever. One day everything temporary will be shaken and destroyed, but what is done for God will remain unshakable and eternal. Read the following passages and answer the corresponding question.

Haggai 2:6; Hebrews 12:26-27

Are you living for what can be shaken—or for the Kingdom that cannot be shaken?

Letting go of the past frees us to see what God is doing right now and to step into His promises for the future. When we look up to Jesus and keep moving forward, we find strength, courage, and confidence that God is in control and His plan is greater than anything behind us.

What might change in your outlook or attitude if you truly looked up to God and moved forward instead of looking back?