

NEXT STEPS

Busyness often distracts us from God's work, and like the people in Haggai's day, we can become trapped without even realizing it. God sometimes allows adversity to get our attention, reminding us that life apart from Him leads to emptiness and frustration. In Haggai 1:8, the Lord gave a clear command to "go, bring, and build," showing that obedience requires deliberate action, not delay. The people had to refocus their priorities, surrender their selfish pursuits, and get to work rebuilding God's temple. In the same way, we must put God first, seek His Kingdom above all else, and live with complete devotion rather than giving Him only a portion of our lives.

What step can you take this week to move beyond distraction and begin actively building God's Kingdom?

PRAYER REQUESTS

What/who can you be praying for this week?

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Talk It Over Questions

For the week of October 5, 2025

Refocus So God Can Restore

Haggai 1:5-11

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

The people of Israel lost sight of God's priorities, focusing on their own houses instead of rebuilding His temple, but Haggai reminded them that true blessing comes when we put God first. In the same way, we are called to play our role in God's kingdom, serving as His hands and feet so His work is carried out through us.

In what practical ways can you put God's work ahead of your own comfort or plans this week or in the weeks to come?

The people in Haggai's day had lost sight of God's greatness, turning their focus from Him to their own comfort and agendas. God, as the Lord Almighty, called them to "give careful thought to their ways," reminding them to realign their priorities and recognize His power and authority.

What are some ways we can tell if our focus is truly on God or if it has shifted to other things?

DIGGING DEEPER

The Bible repeatedly calls God's people to examine themselves—Lamentations 3:40 urges us to return to the Lord, and 2 Corinthians 13:5 reminds us to test whether we are in the faith. Haggai 1:6 illustrates the consequences of neglecting God, showing that when He is not first, even our labor and gain feel empty. Proverbs 4:23 underscores that the heart is the source of all we do, and when it drifts from God, every part of life is affected. Israel's failure to guard their hearts and obey God led to tangible consequences: fruitless toil, fleeting riches, and unmet needs. Read the following passages and answer the corresponding question.

Haggai 1:5-8; Lamentations 3:40; 2 Corinthians 13:5; Proverbs 4:23

How do these passages together challenge us to examine our hearts, test our faith, and recognize whether the results of our lives reflect God's central place or our own misplaced priorities?

God's covenant people are called to live in obedience to His Word, but when we place our comfort and desires above Him, we face the consequences of emptiness and dissatisfaction until we return to Him in repentance. True fulfillment and satisfaction are only found when we refocus our priorities on God rather than on material things or self-interest.

In what ways might selfishness or misplaced priorities be keeping you from finding true satisfaction in God?

If God is not at the center of our lives, even when we gain what we think we need, it will never truly satisfy—Scripture makes this clear in Leviticus 26:26, Hosea 4:10, and Amos 4:6. Haggai 1:9–11 shows how God withheld blessing because His people prioritized their own houses over His, leaving them with fruitless labor and unmet needs. Jesus and Paul also warned against living for self, reminding us that only when we put God first will our lives find true satisfaction and purpose. Read the following passages and answer the corresponding question.

Haggai 1:9-11; Leviticus 26:26; Hosea 4:10; Amos 4:6; Philippians 2:21

How do these passages challenge us to recognize when we are living for our own interests instead of God's?