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**“Building Through Discouragement”**

**Haggai 2:1-9**

* **When I Feel Overwhelmed, God Will Strengthen Me. Read Haggai 2:1-4**. In this passage, Israel is discouraged for a variety of reasons. God shows up and strengthens them through encouragement. He says “*Be strong*” 3 times. He tells them to keep working and that He is with them. Out of all of the things that God could have said, why do you think He chose to say these things: “Be strong, keep working, I am with you”?
* God’s Word of encouragement for His people came through the mouth of Haggai. God often encourages through the mouth of others. How can you be more of an encourager this week? Have you seen ways in which God may be trying to encourage you?
* **When I Lose Sight of God’s Promises, He Still Keeps Them. Read Haggai 2:4-5**. God states in verse 5 that despite their disobedience, He is still keeping the “covenant” that He made with Israel when they came out of Egypt. What does the word “*covenant*” mean? How does knowing this truth impact your relationship with God?
* What does the scriptures teach about our covenant with Jesus? **Read Matthew 26:26-28 & Hebrews 13:20-21.** Do you see the Gospel as not only a message of salvation, but also an eternal covenant with Jesus?
* **When Things are Broken, God Promises to Get Glory. Read Haggai 2:6-7.** In this section, God says “I will fill this house with glory.” – Although the building is destroyed and their situation looks broken, God promises to get glory out of everything in the end. Is there an area of your life that seems broken beyond repair? Do you believe that God can get glory there? – What is the one area in your life that you find it most difficult to keep building? What does **Galatians 6:9** say about serving/working during difficult seasons?
* **When Everything is Chaotic, God will Provide Peace.** Read Haggai 2:.8-9. God makes two promises to Israel: (1) The latter end of the building will be greater than the former, (2) God will provide peace there. Are you experiencing the peace of God today? Is there a situation in your life that is lacking the peace of God?

**Accountability:**

1. The Israelites had a busy schedule during the month of October. Do you have a busy schedule currently? In what ways are you displaying trust in God by resting?
2. Who do you personally need to encourage this week?