

The Return Home

Week 19



Big Idea: Sometimes, when hope seems dead and the darkness of night closes in strong against us, God is about to do something really big.

Key Verse: Haggai 1:5-6

⁵Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. ⁶You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.”

Table Talk

Cyrus, the king of Persia, encouraged God’s people to go back to Jerusalem and rebuild the Lord’s temple. About 50,000 people went back to start the project. When the foundation was laid, some of God’s people cried and others shouted with joy. Talk about a time when you cried tears of joy. Can you remember a time that you shouted with joy? People in the surrounding areas didn’t want the temple rebuilt. They tried to stop the building. Have you ever known that God wanted you to do something and had others stand in your way? What did you do? What was the end result?

In the ultimate backfire, governors in nearby areas went to King Darius to see if King Cyrus had truly decreed that God’s people could rebuild the temple. They hoped Darius would stop the building. Instead he found Cyrus’ decree and made these governors give money and supplies to build the temple. Obviously, God’s plan trumped the governors’. How do you think the governors felt?

Have you ever had a plan backfire?
What does this story teach about God’s plans?

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