

Haggai, Prophet to Returned Exiles

Session 2024-07

February 18, 2024

Hi Tweens,

Opening Prayer

Lord, if there is anything that I am not supposed to be doing but doing it, shift my focus away from it. Lord, let me set the absolute priority: to seek you first. I say – God is my priority. In Jesus Name. Amen!

The story in this week's lesson "Haggai, Prophet to Returned Exiles" is from the book of Haggai. The book of Haggai describes the prophet's encouragement for God's people in Jerusalem to put God first and restore true worship at the temple He had told them to rebuild. Later, God sent Jesus who sacrificed His life to rescue us from sin. Through His sacrifice, Jesus provided a way for Christians to freely worship God. **Enjoy this week's story!**

Here are your 3 random questions for the week:

1. **Question 368:** Have you ever crashed a wedding? (*No*)
2. **Question 836:** How do you feel about your family? (*Love them!!!*)
3. **Question 841:** What is your favorite kind of BBQ food? (*Chicken*)

Bible Passage: Haggai 1-2

Memory Verse: Joshua 22:5b NIV

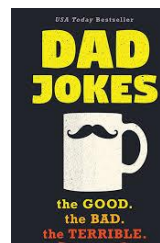
to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, to keep his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul."

Bible Verse: Psalm 40:8 NIV

*I desire to do your will, my God;
your law is within my heart."*

Text Truth: **God should be our number one priority.**

Bible Skills Spotlight: Correlate prominent Bible people with the books in which their stories are recorded. Pronounce most of the names of Bible people, places, and things mentioned in the Bible.



Q. How do you make a rabbit **stew**?

A. Keep it **waiting**.

Shine!

Wednesdays

Kid friendly dinner at 5:30pm

Program starts at 6:00pm

Haggai, Prophet to Returned Exiles

- “Let’s read today’s Bible story and find out how the prophet Haggai encouraged God’s people to put Him first.”

ENJOY THIS WEEK’S STORY!

The Persian king, Cyrus, issued an order allowing the Jews to return home and rebuild God’s temple. After returning to the land, the people began building the temple. Some people in Jerusalem did not want the temple to be rebuilt. They caused trouble for the Jews to discourage the people. When a new king, Artaxerxes, came to power, the people in Jerusalem were able to convince the king to stop the Jews from building the temple.

Twenty years went by, and a new ruler of Persia named Darius became king. God sent two prophets, Haggai and Zechariah, to tell the Jews to finish building the temple. Haggai spoke to the Israelite leader Zerubbabel and the high priest Joshua. “The people say it is not time to rebuild the Lord’s house. But the people are living in nice, comfortable houses of their own, while God’s house is still in ruins. Go up to the hills and bring down the lumber. Build God’s house and He will be pleased and glorified. You did not have a good harvest because His house is in ruins while you are busy with your own houses.” The people were no longer making God their priority. God was not first in their lives. When they had faced tough times, they had made other things more important than obeying God. Because of their wrong priorities, God could not bless the people.

Zerubbabel and Joshua the priest led the people to obey God. They heard Haggai’s message from God and began to build the temple. God again had a message for Haggai to give to Zerubbabel



and Joshua. The people knew that the temple they were building was nothing like the temple Solomon had built. Solomon’s temple was grand and beautiful. The rebuilt temple was simple and plain. “Be strong Zerubbabel. Be strong Joshua. Continue working. I am with you,” God promised. “I will fill this house with glory. Silver and gold belong to Me. The final glory of this house will be greater than the first. I will give peace to this place.”

One more time God gave Haggai a special message. This time the message was for Zerubbabel. “One day I will shake the heavens and earth. I will overthrow human kingdoms and rulers. On that day, I will take you and make you like my signet ring. I have chosen you.” God promised to give Zerubbabel the authority to lead His people as the next ruler from David’s family. This promise reminded the people of God’s promise to send a Messiah from David’s family.

OPEN YOUR BIBLE TO HAGGAI

READ HAGGAI 1:7-9

- “Why was God speaking through Haggai to let the people know He was upset with them?” (They had been busy providing for themselves and building their own homes and ignored their house of worship.)
- “Building a house is not wrong. Building a nice house is not wrong. But ignoring God’s commands so that you can spend the time and money to build a nice, big house for yourself is wrong. The people were using money and resources on their own dwellings that were meant to be used to rebuild the temple.”
- “We may not be commanded to build a temple, but we are commanded to put God first. **God should be our number one priority.**”

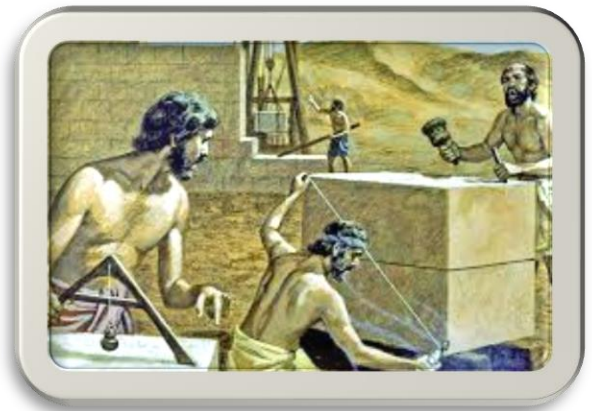
Haggai, Prophet to Returned Exiles

If you have any prayer requests, please send them to cameronfamily10@gmail.com. Remember to LAUGH, have a blessed week, watch, or come to church Sunday morning, call a friend, do well in school, and remember **GOD LOVES YOU AND SO DO WE.**

The Tween Teachers

Watch this video from *The Bible Project* about the Book of Haggai:

https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/haggai/?utm_source=web_social_share&medium=shared_video



PRIORITY CHECKUP

Write down at least five things that are important to you. Then, ask yourself silently if any of

those things are more important to you than God. God should be our number one priority, but sometimes we let other things become more important to us. If something has become more important to you, pray and ask God for forgiveness and help to rearrange your priorities. If none of the things you wrote down are more important to you than God, pray and ask God to help you resist any temptations to make God less than your number one priority.

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WHAT DOES NOT BELONG?

Study the picture of today's Bible story.
Then, circle the five things that do not
belong in the picture.

