

The 12: Haggai

Kyle Collins

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Reflection & Discussion Questions

Haggai had a message for God's people as they returned from exile

Their efforts and lifestyle had left them unsatisfied.

*How would you describe what it means to be the people of God in your own words?

Haggai, again and again, asked the people to give careful thoughts to their ways

Read and discuss Haggai 1:2-6 and 12-13(NIV)

² *This is what the LORD Almighty says: "These people say, 'The time has not yet come to rebuild the LORD's house.'"*

³ *Then the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: "Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?"*

⁵ *Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. ⁶ You 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."

¹² *Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the whole remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the Lord their God and the message of the prophet Haggai, because the Lord their God had sent him. And the people feared the Lord.*

¹³ *Then Haggai, the Lord's messenger, gave this message of the Lord to the people: "I am with you," declares the Lord.*

*What do you see about God in these verses? The people?

*Why was it so important to rebuild the temple?

*What do these passages indicate about being God's people?

In their obedience, God restored their hope

Rebuilding the temple was about returning to a way of life that was lost in captivity.

*Where might you recognize yourself in the people – misplaced priorities, overly focused on the past, exhaustion, loss of identity, etc.?

*What is your own 'rebuilding of the temple'?

The people of God can only be satisfied by the Living Water

John 7:37-38 (NIV) *Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.*

*Where is a place you might be seeking life or satisfaction apart from the Living Water right now?

*What ways might you consider? How can *putting your heart on your roads* – engaging where you've been and where you are headed - help?

Visual reflection (Visio Divina)

Song for reflection

[Haggi's Home Improvement](#) by Nahum HaLevi

[Living Water](#) by Ellie Holcomb