

Group Leader Guide

Sermon Recap

Psalm 137: 1-6; Isaiah 44:28; Ezra 1:1-3; Isaiah 35:1; Ezra 4:23-24; Haggai 1:1-11; Matthew 6:33; Luke 12: 23, 30; 1 Peter 2: 9; Colossians 3:1-2; Haggai 1: 13; 1 John 3:16; Colossians 2:13-15

Pastor Alex introduces a series on the Book of Haggai, emphasizing its relevance despite being written in 520 BC. He illustrates how the Israelites struggled with apathy and lived in neglect of God's presence, abandoning the call to rebuild the temple after their return from exile. The sermon highlights the contrast between the people's self-centered pursuits and their need for God's presence, urging them to prioritize spiritual devotion over worldly distractions. Ultimately, Pastor Alex calls for reflection on personal and communal priorities, reminding the congregation that true peace and fulfillment come from a relationship with God.

Quotes

"You're not here by accident. You are here for a reason. You're here for a purpose. and God is calling you to consider those things. He's saying, consider your ways; what is your priority?"

-Pastor Alex

Discussion Questions

Why do you think the people in Haggai's time felt it wasn't the right time to rebuild the temple, despite God's previous guidance?

- Pastor Alex talked about how the people of Israel had become apathetic and focused on their own comforts instead of God's presence, leading them to think it wasn't time to rebuild the temple.
- In what ways do you find yourself prioritizing your comfort over spiritual responsibilities or commitments?

How does Haggai's message to 'consider your ways' encourage you to evaluate your own priorities in life?

- The sermon emphasized the importance of the phrase 'consider your ways' as a call to evaluate whether God is first in our lives.
- What specific actions can you take this week to refocus your priorities towards God?

In Matthew 6:33, Jesus says to seek first the kingdom of God. How does this relate to the theme of rebuilding the temple in Haggai?

- Pastor Alex drew a connection between seeking God's presence and prioritizing God in one's life, much like the Israelites were called to rebuild the temple.
- What are some practical ways you can seek God's kingdom first in your everyday decisions?

What challenges did the people of Haggai face that made them prioritize their own homes over the temple, and how can that relate to our current lives?

- Pastor Alex explained that the Israelites faced difficulties like drought and opposition, which led them to focus inwardly rather than on God's command.
- What are some challenges in your life that distract you from serving God or participating in your faith community?

How can we as a church community respond to the idea of considering our ways and prioritizing God's presence in our gatherings?

- The sermon highlighted the importance of the church collectively considering how to prioritize and glorify God in their actions and plans.
- What specific changes could our small group implement to better focus on God's presence in our time together?

Prayer

- Ask God to help us prioritize His presence in our lives this week.
- Pray for the courage to step out in faith, just as the people did when called to rebuild the temple.
- Request guidance on how to resist the distractions of daily life and focus on what truly matters to God.
- Share any specific prayer requests the group may have and lift them up together.