

# Group Leader Guide-Nov 24 2024

## Sermon Recap

*Acts 2:44, 46-47; Haggai 2:1-9; 1 Kings 6:18-21; Luke 17:5-6; Mark 12:43-44; Joshua 1:9; 1 Chronicles 28:20; Ephesians 6:10; 1 Corinthians 2:9*

Pastor Alex encourages the congregation to reject a defeatist mindset by emphasizing the importance of trusting in God's presence as they work through their struggles, drawing inspiration from the book of Haggai. He highlights the power of small beginnings and the potential for God to do extraordinary things through seemingly insignificant efforts, urging everyone to focus on what they can offer rather than comparing themselves to others. Pastor Alex reassures the church that even in their discouragement, God's promises remain, and He is with them to provide strength and guidance. Ultimately, he calls on everyone to sustain their faith by looking forward to the greater glory God has in store, reminding them that every small act of obedience matters in God's kingdom.

## Quotes

Comparison either causes us to feel inferior leading to inaction or it leads to feeling superior leading to pride ~Pastor Alex

We are called to do what we can and trust Him to do what we can't ~Pastor Alex

The name Lord of Hosts emphasizes God's sovereign control over every power, dominion, force and realm ~ Pastor Alex

We can be strong, we can be courageous, we can endure because God is with us ~ Pastor Alex

Trust God and see what happens ~ Pastor Alex

## Discussion Questions

Why do you think the people in Haggai's time felt discouraged about rebuilding the temple?

- The sermon discusses how the people were comparing their current efforts to the grandeur of the previous temple and feeling disheartened by what they perceived as a lack of glory in their current work.

- Have you ever felt discouraged when trying to achieve something because you compared yourself to others? How did that impact your efforts?

What does it mean to have faith like a grain of mustard seed, as mentioned in the sermon?

- Pastor Alex explained that even a tiny amount of faith placed in a powerful God can lead to extraordinary results, and that God can do great things with our small offerings.
- Can you think of a time when you relied on faith in a difficult situation? What was the outcome?

How can the message of not despising small beginnings apply to our own lives?

- The sermon inspires us to appreciate and be faithful in the little things, just like the people worked on the temple despite its smallness compared to former days.
- What small beginnings have you experienced in your life that led to something bigger? How did you keep your faith during that time?

In Haggai 2:9, God promises that the glory of the latter temple will be greater than the former. What does this promise mean for the people then and for us today?

- Pastor Alex highlighted that this promise speaks of both the historical fulfillment in the rebuilding of the temple and the greater fulfillment through Jesus and His presence.
- How does understanding this promise encourage you to remain faithful in tough situations? Can you identify any 'smaller' challenges that could turn into significant blessings in the future?

Why is it important to remember that God is always with us as we strive to do His work, especially during difficult times?

- The sermon emphasizes that our strength comes from God's presence, which allows us to face challenges courageously and keep moving forward.
- When you face challenges, how do you remind yourself of God's presence? In what practical ways can you seek strength from Him in your daily life?

## Prayer

- Please share any specific prayer requests that you have.
- Ask God to help us apply the lessons from the sermon to our daily lives this week.
- Pray for strength and courage in the tasks God has set before us.
- Seek God's wisdom in identifying the small things He wants us to be faithful with.