

Discussion Questions

Date: May 10th, 2026

Preacher: Josh Ratliff

Sermon Outline

Talking Points

Prioritizing God's Kingdom | Haggai 1-2

God's People are Called to Actively Participate in Restoration (Haggai 1)

- God confronts the empty striving and misplaced priorities of his people. (vv. 1-11)
- God's declaration of His presence emboldens his people to act. (vv. 12-15)
- **Question:** Have we let our ideas of thriving in earthly kingdoms consume us to the point that we have forgotten God's Kingdom?

God Encourages the People's Perseverance in Kingdom Work (Haggai 2)

- God exhorts his people to find strength in Him, not in what they produce. (vv. 1-9)
- **Question:** How can you find your strength in God in this season? Do the rhythms of your life and family put God and His kingdom consistently first?
- God reminds them of the futility of their ways without Him and promises future blessing. (vv. 10-23)

Bottom Line: God calls us to the abundant life that comes from prioritizing His Kingdom!

* Read 2 Samuel 7. How would you describe David's posture in this passage? How is it different than the posture of the people described in Haggai 1:2-6?

* How do we as Christ followers know when we should act or when we should abstain/rest in certain situations? Why can discerning decisions like this be confusing or tricky?

* We simply cannot assume every financial or life struggle is a sign of God's displeasure. However, what are some spiritual symptoms of someone's life that suggest their priorities are out of order? Where have you seen these symptoms in your own life?

* How does the promise of God being with you impact your motivation? Do you think God stirs us to obedience, or He more so meets us once we take the first step in obedience? Both? Why or why not?

* The older generation in Haggai's day wept because the new Temple didn't look as grand as the old one. In what ways do we let the visual size of our ministry or life season dictate our joy or sense of worth? What are some flaws in this line of reasoning?

* Where in your life do you feel like your offering to God (whether it is your time, talent, or treasure) is not enough? Why do you think this?

* When and where this week will you make time to actively find rest in God's plan? How will you forfeit striving for your own power/control and submit your offerings and efforts to Jesus?

Understanding Scripture

1. Read the passage aloud.

- Question: How would the original audience have understood this passage?
- Question: What was God's desire for them?

2. Reread key verse(s) aloud.

- Question: What does this teach us about the human soul, desires, or behavior?
- Question: What does this teach us about the nature, desires, or behavior of God?

3. Ask if anything is difficult to understand in the passage, or simply point it out yourself.

- Back up from the confusing verse and reread the whole section slowly—highlight the author's flow of thought.
- Ask everyone, "What are some possible interpretations?" Encourage curiosity!
- If needed, provide clarification, but admit if you don't have a satisfactory explanation, and volunteer to research answers. Share your findings over text or at the next meeting.

4. Summarize the passage in 1-3 sentences to refocus the group ("Okay, so far we've seen in Amos...")

- Question: What does this say about our relationship with God and/or each other?
- Question: How do the teachings, actions, or person of Jesus shed light on this passage?

Prayer Requests

