



Haggai

August 9, 2026

Ice Breaker

What is one hobby, habit, or routine that you find yourself thinking about more than almost anything else during a typical week?

Key Verses

- Haggai 1:2-4
- Haggai 1:5-7
- Haggai 1:8
- Haggai 2:4-5
- Haggai 2:6-9
- Haggai 2:19
- Haggai 2:23

Questions

- The sermon opened with vivid pictures of people at different life stages who are all, in some way, focused on themselves. Which of those snapshots felt most relatable to you, and why?

- Haggai rebuked Israel not for having nice homes, but for valuing their comfort more than God's presence. How do you personally distinguish between enjoying God's blessings and allowing those blessings to replace God at the center of your life?
- The pastor described how God used discipline to correct his people and recenter them on His presence. Can you think of a time in your own life when a difficult season turned out to be God lovingly redirecting you? What did you learn from that experience?
- The sermon made the point that spiritual life is sustained by obedient devotion, not by emotional highs. Do you tend to wait until you feel spiritually motivated before taking steps of obedience? How has that approach worked out for you?
- Have you ever gone through a dry or barren season in your spiritual life where God's presence seemed distant? What did that feel like, and what helped you (or is helping you) move through it?
- The pastor said that our best moments of worship or Bible study are just a foretaste of the greater glory to come. How does keeping an eternal perspective change the way you approach ordinary, unimpressive days of faithfulness?
- Haggai warned that when our hearts are not right before God, even our good works are tainted. How do you guard your heart so that your service to God flows from genuine love for Him rather than from obligation or a desire to earn His favor?
- The sermon ended with a challenge to identify what sits on the throne of your life, whether politics, finances, career, family, or something else. What is one thing you sense God may be asking you to dethrone so that He can truly be the center?

Life Application

This week, set aside 15 to 20 minutes for an honest personal inventory. Write down the top three to five things that occupy most of your mental energy and emotional investment on a daily basis. Then prayerfully ask God to show you whether any of those things have quietly moved into the center of your life in a way that has displaced Him. Choose one specific, practical step you can take this week to reorder that area around his presence, whether that means adjusting a habit, repairing a relationship, protecting your time in prayer, or serving someone in a way that only God will see.

Key Takeaways

- God's plan has always been to dwell with His people, and He actively works to remove anything that displaces Him from the center of our lives.
- When we neglect God's place in our lives, He lovingly disciplines us not to inflict pain but to restore our spiritual health and draw us back to Himself.
- Spiritual vitality is sustained by obedient devotion, not by emotional highs. Taking the next faithful step in obedience is what opens the door to experiencing God's presence.
- When God's presence seems to have faded, His promise is to look forward to a greater glory that is still to come, not backward to past spiritual experiences.
- The king is returning. Every competing throne, whether politics, wealth, career, or personal ambition, will ultimately be overthrown, so it is far better to willingly place God at the center now than to wait for Him to forcibly remove what has taken His place.

Ending Prayer

Lord, we thank you for the truth of your Word and for the grace you extend to us even when we wander. We confess that we are prone to filling the center of our lives with things that feel important but are not eternal. We ask that you would do in each of us what we cannot do for ourselves: root out whatever has taken your rightful place and establish yourself as King in our hearts. Give us the courage to take the next faithful step, even when we do not feel like it, trusting that you are with us. And as we go back into our week, may your presence be the thing we treasure most. Come quickly, Lord Jesus. Amen.