

# 5-Day Devotional: Building Springs in the Valley

## Day 1: Naming What Was

**Reading:** Haggai 1:1-11

**Devotional:** Before we can move forward, we must acknowledge where we've been. The returning exiles stood before the ruins of their former glory, and God didn't rush past their pain. He asked through Haggai, "How does it look to you now?" There's holy permission in that question—permission to name our losses, to grieve what once was, to admit that things aren't what they used to be. God isn't afraid of our honest assessment. Whether you're facing personal loss, watching your church change, or mourning dreams that didn't materialize, begin here: tell God the truth about what you see. Grief isn't the opposite of faith; it's often the pathway through which faith deepens. What former glory are you mourning today? Name it before God, who sees and understands.

## Day 2: The Courage to Continue

**Reading:** Haggai 2:1-5

**Devotional:** Three times in these verses, God commands: "Take courage." Notice God doesn't say, "Don't worry, everything will return to normal." Instead, He offers something better—His presence. "I am with you," God declares. This is the foundation of courage: not the promise that circumstances will improve exactly as we hope, but that we won't face them alone. The exiles had limited resources, traumatized hearts, and an impossible task. Yet God called them to work anyway. Courage isn't the absence of fear or doubt; it's obedience despite them. What work is God calling you to today that feels beyond your capacity? Remember: God doesn't ask you to succeed on your own strength. He asks you to show up while He provides the presence. Where do you need courage to take the next faithful step?

## Day 3: Singing a New Song

**Reading:** Psalm 98:1-9

**Devotional:** "Sing to the Lord a new song." Not the old songs louder. Not the same melodies with fewer voices. A new song entirely. This is the invitation of transformation: to let God compose something fresh from our circumstances. The melody of faithfulness continues—God's character never changes—but the expression adapts. New songs emerge from new experiences. They carry the wisdom of loss, the depth of perseverance, the beauty of resilience. Perhaps your new song includes smaller gatherings that go deeper, sacrificial generosity in lean times, or

companioning others through valleys you've walked yourself. These aren't lesser songs; they're richer ones, earned through faithfulness. What new song is emerging from your life? Listen carefully—God is composing something marvelous through your present circumstances, not despite them.

#### **Day 4: Small Joys, Real Joys**

**Reading:** Zechariah 4:6-10

**Devotional:** "Do not despise the day of small things." When we're rebuilding from loss, progress often comes in increments too small to impress observers. A single pledge increased. One new member joining. A faithful few showing up week after week. These aren't dramatic victories, but they're real ones—living stones being laid for foundations we can't yet see. Joy doesn't require everything to be fixed; it celebrates what's happening right now. Like springs discovered in the desert, these small joys sustain us for the journey ahead. They remind us that God works through the faithful few, through widow's mites, through mustard seeds. What small thing can you celebrate today? Where do you see evidence—however modest—that God is still at work? Name it. Thank God for it. Let it nourish your hope.

#### **Day 5: Greater Glory Ahead**

**Reading:** Haggai 2:6-9

**Devotional:** "The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former." This seems impossible when you're standing in ruins. How can less be more? How can smaller be greater? Yet God's mathematics work differently than ours. Greater glory doesn't necessarily mean bigger buildings or fuller pews. It might mean deeper faith, more authentic community, or becoming exactly who God created you to be for this moment. The exiles couldn't envision the future glory; they could only lay one stone at a time with their broken hearts and tired hands. That was enough. God didn't ask them to see the whole picture—just to build faithfully. You don't have to understand how God will fulfill this promise. You just need to keep showing up, keep building, keep trusting. What stone is yours to lay today? The glory God has planned may look nothing like you expect—and be far better than you imagine.