PRIORITIES

The Call

Haggai 1:1-15

January 16, 2022

1. Discuss a time when you were once excited to begin a project or new plan but eventually left it unfinished. What reasons did you have not to finish?

2. **Read Galatians 6:7-8.** Do our choices actually matter? Explain. Discuss the relationship between the obedience of God's people, blessings, and God's plan for the world.

3. **Read Haggai 1:1-4** What is the message from God through Haggai to the Jewish leaders?

4. If you were an Israelite, how would you respond to Haggai's challenge in verses 2 and 4? Have you ever neglected God's work so you could take care of your wants? Share a story of how you have gone without so that you could first give to the Lord.

5. **Read Haggai 1:5-6, Deuteronomy 28:2 and 15**. Re-state and explain the phrase "give careful thought to your ways." Have you ever noticed this counterproductive pattern mentioned in verse 6 in your life? Was it personal, a church, or national?

6. **Read Haggai 1:7-8**. What did God command them to do? What is God's solution to eliminate counterproductive patterns and disappointing expectations?

7. **Read Haggai 1:9-11**. Verse 9 reemphasizes their flawed expectations from verse 6. Why has the dew been withheld? Who called for the drought? What does this say about God's involvement in society? Is his "interference" good or bad?

8. Do you think God causes the same kind of consequences against people today? What kind of forms might this take? How can you avoid it?

9. **Read Haggai 1:12-15**. Describe a time you recognized and responded to God's correction or discipline. What does it mean to "fear the Lord"?

10. **Read Matthew 6:33**. How can you seek his kingdom and his righteousness? Give an example of a time you felt God's blessing after deciding to put him first.

11. What is God calling you to prioritize now to serve him? What are the materialistic/worldly/ selfish pursuits preventing you from prioritizing serving God?