



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM FEBRUARY 3/4 SERMON

If you missed the sermon, check out biblechapel.org/sermons.

1. Read [Ezra 4:1-6](#). Why did the Jews who had returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple stop their work?
2. We learn that opposition came from the outside (the surrounding nations) and the inside (the local Jews). What is the outside opposition that can cause believers to be spiritually stuck? What is the inside opposition that does the same?
3. Read [Haggai 1:5, 7, 9, 14](#); [2:4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 23](#). What is significant about this title of God and the repetition?
4. Read [Haggai 1:2](#). For sixteen years, the people said, “the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord.” What kept the people in this “stuck” state?
5. Read [Haggai 1:4](#). Discuss ways in which Christians today neglect God’s work and focus on themselves.
6. Read [Haggai 1:5 and 7a](#). What does Haggai mean when he says, “Consider your ways” (literally, “Set your heart on your ways.”)
7. Refer to the [sermon notes](#) to see [Keller’s 20 questions for heart diagnosis](#). Discuss these “idols.” Which one do you struggle with?
8. Read [Haggai 1:5-8](#). What is God’s remedy for moving from a stuck state to spiritual progress?
9. Read [Haggai 2:3](#) and the following quote from J. I. Packer written when he was 87 years old:

Daydreaming and indulgences of nostalgia are unhappy habits, making for unrealism and discontent. Like all bad habits, they tighten their grip on us until we set ourselves against them and, with God's help, break them.

-J. I. Packer, *Finishing Our Course with Joy*, 128

Why is living in the past an “unhappy habit[s], making for unrealism and discontent.”

10. Read [Haggai 2:9](#). Why can God say that the glory of the smaller temple will be greater than the glory of the beautiful temple Solomon built?