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Subject: Connect Group Lesson

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8-16 Connect Group Lesson

Welcome

Opening Question: If you could make one change or improvement to your house, what would it be?

Worship

Word

Read Ezra 1:1-4

- 1) What command is given to Jews and about the Temple?
- 2) At the time of this command, the Jews had been living in exile for many years. Why was this command significant?

NOTE: Initially a large group of Jews returned to Jerusalem and began work on the temple. However, they encountered opposition and became discouraged, stopping their work. When Haggai begins his prophecies, approximately 18 years have passed.

Read Haggai chapter 1 and answer the following questions.

- 1) Look at verses 1-6. What is the Lord's complaint against the people?
- 2) Look specifically at verse 4. What does this verse say about the people's priorities?
- 3) Look at verses 6 and 8-11. How is the people's lack of obedience affecting the blessings that God sends?
- 4) What is the response of the people in verse 12? How does the Lord respond in verse 13?
- 5) What else stands out to you from this first chapter?

Read Ezra 6:13-18

- 1) What do these verses tell us about the completion of the Temple?
- 2) What overlap do you see between this passage and what we read in Haggai?

Digging Deeper:

- 1) People can give lip service to what is important to them, but that may not reflect reality. The people in Haggai 1 had to reexamine their priorities. The incomplete temple was tangible evidence. What ways can we evaluate what our priorities actually are?
- 2) The people likely had real concerns that kept them from completing the temple. How can our daily concerns keep us from living faithfully? What is the solution to this?
- 3) Look again at how God withheld blessing when the people did not honor Him. What do we learn from this?
- 4) 2) What is the problem with giving to God out of our leftovers instead of our best?
- 5) Obedience does not always translate to God's physical blessing. What

...blessings, other than physical, do we receive from living obediently to God?
6) What else did you learn from this study?

Works

Take the time to pray for the people in your life who need to know Jesus.
Pray for EBC and that we would be faithful in our commitment to the Gospel.
Pray for one another.

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Troy Bassham

Lead Pastor

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