

Life Group Guide Hag 1 “Worship God Now” For the Sermon Preached on Nov 20 and For Use in Life Groups through Nov 27

Icebreaker Questions

Have you ever known what you should be doing but end up not doing it or procrastinating? Do you, then, find yourself saying that you have too little time and too much stress to ever get it done? What does that say about us and our priorities?

Read the Biblical Text: Hag 1:1–15

Pastor Richard’s Sermon Outline

- I. 1:1–11 God’s people need a growing desire for God and His work.**
 - a. 1:1 The setting
 - b. 1:2 The people’s words and hearts say, “It is not time to build.”
 - c. 1:3–6 God’s 1st answer: **Our hearts are revealed by what we do.**
 - i. 1:3–4 Why is it time to build your houses and not mine?
 - ii. 1:5–6 Here’s why that plan is not working out for you
 - d. 1:7–11 God’s 2nd answer: **We should do the work God gave us.**
 - i. 1:8 Build so that I will be glorified in it.
 - ii. 1:9–11 Here again is why your plan is not working out for you.
- II. 1:12–15 God’s people experience and enjoy God’s presence when we worship Him in obedience, fear, and love.**
 - a. 1:12 The leaders and the people obey, fear, and love God.
 - b. 1:13 God reminds the people of His presence with them.
 - c. 1:14–15 The leaders and the people begin to rebuild the temple.

Observations of the Biblical Text

1. In 1:1, the prophet addresses which persons? What are their roles in leading God’s people?

2. In 1:2, what do the people say about their role in rebuilding God’s temple?

3. In 1:4, what do these people have the time for?

4. In 1:5–8, what counsel does the prophet give the people?

5. In 1:5–8, why does God offer such counsel to the people?

6. In 1:5–11, what obstacles has God allowed in their lives to teach them about their current priorities?

7. In 1:12–15, how did the leaders and the people respond?

8. In 1:13, what is Haggai called, and what simple message does he provide?

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Interpretation of the Biblical Text

1. In 1:1–4, when God tells us about our good ending with Him in Christ, what should that motivate and lead us to do today? What should be our work? When we don’t do things consistent with this, how are we treasuring Christ and what He did?

2. In 1:1–4, what is the role of God’s word in helping us recognize who we are and what we are actually doing? How important is listening to all of God’s word in order to see God’s perspective on what we are doing and should be doing?

3. In 1:5–8, why is it important that God gives them a rather specific action to address their sinful hearts about God’s work? How should a believer go about learning God’s principles and commands and then applying these insights to specific actions?

4. In 1:9–12, how does the Bible help us to understand the ups and downs of regular life? Is it always clear why things are difficult when we try to do God’s work? Is the difficulty a sign that we are doing God’s work or not doing it? How should understand God’s goodness in difficult times?

5. In 1:13–15, why is God’s presence needed to do God’s work? How should we understand His presence if we are to both fear and love God when we seek to do His work?

Application of the Biblical Text

1. This week, please memorize Hag 1:8 as you pray and read through the whole book of Haggai.
2. What are some of the current issues (politics, elections, vaccines, social media, etc.) and other moments of life where we might be devoting time to our own work and passions and have become disconnected from God’s priorities and passions?
3. How will you help a fellow church member who wants to do God’s work but has no idea how to do it or has no sense that they can do anything good for God? Where from Scripture would you start developing your answers?
4. How will you respond if a fellow church member challenges you that your time at church and during the week is not properly directed to God’s work? How will you determine what might need changing? How will you strengthen your fellowship with Christ and this fellow saint through this discussion?
5. Which neighbors or co-workers will you pray about serving this week as part of God’s work?