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Participant Handout

2026 Annual Theme: Hope in Motion

BIBLE STUDY
July 29, 2026

July 2026 Theme: **Potential turned into Progress**

Lesson Subject : **“The Minor Prophets” Unit three: Haggai**
Haggai 1:2-13 (Key verse: vs.9)

Topics

- ❖ Scripture Reference
- ❖ Reflection Questions
- ❖ Outline
- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ Background and Context
- ❖ Explore the Text
- ❖ Check for understanding
- ❖ Life Application

Scripture Reference: Haggai 1:2-13 New American Standard Bible 2020)

“This is what the LORD of armies says: ‘This people says, “The time has not come, the time for the house of the LORD to be rebuilt.” ’” Then the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying, “Is it time for you yourselves to live in your paneled houses while this house remains desolate?” Now then, the LORD of armies says this: “Consider your ways! You have sown much, only to harvest little; you eat, but there is not enough to be satisfied; you drink, but there is not enough to become drunk; you put on clothing, but there is not enough for anyone to get warm; and the one who earns, earns wages to put into a money bag full of holes.” The LORD of armies says this: “Consider your ways! Go up to the mountains, bring wood, and rebuild the temple, that I may be pleased with it and be

honored,” says the LORD. **“You start an ambitious project, but behold, it comes to little; when you bring it home, I blow it away. Why?” declares the LORD of armies. “It is because of My house which remains desolate, while each of you runs to his own house.** Therefore, because of you the sky has withheld its dew, and the earth has withheld its produce. And I called for a drought on the land, on the mountains, on the grain, on the new wine, on the oil, on what the ground produces, on mankind, on cattle, and on all the products of the labor of your hands.” Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God and the words of Haggai the prophet, just as the LORD their God had sent him. And the people showed reverence for the LORD. Then Haggai, the messenger of the LORD, spoke by the commission of the LORD to the people, saying, “‘I am with you,’ declares the LORD.”

Reflection Questions

Question 1: What does it mean to seek ye first the kingdom of God? **Matthew 6:33**

Question 2: What effects does Procrastination have on a person’s life? Is there such things as Spiritual Procrastination? And if so, what does God say about procrastination?

The Book of Haggai Chapter 1 Outlined

The Divine Timing vs. 1-2

- A. The Lord Speaks
- B. The Time for Progress
- C. The Demotivated People

The Delay in Building vs. 5-8

- A. Unacceptable Behavior
- B. Unpleasant Benefits
- C. Unified in Blessing the Lord

The Drought that is Persist vs. 9-14

- A. Restricted Resources
- B. Revival among the Remnants
- C. Residing of the Redeemer
- D. Reigniting the Redeemed

Introductory/ Contextual Clues

- **Introductory formula.**
- **Dramatic conflict (temple ruins, populace unconcerned, builders discouraged; pervasive impurity; Israel subject to the nations.**
- **Divine challenge to obedience and faith declaration to the promise. Hag. 1:8**

Understanding Haggai/ Background and Context

Haggai is second only to Obadiah in brevity among the books of the Hebrew Bible. Haggai is a series of oracles. Haggai's role in the Judean community's transition from disappointment and frustration to renewed hope.

Broader knowledge of Israel history of the sixth century BC is extremely important for understanding Haggai. Early in the sixth century BC Jerusalem and its temple were devastated, and portion of the Judean population was exiled to Babylon.

Judah ceased to be a kingdom under Davidic rule, dashing earlier hopes invested in the nation and its royal house. Under Persians, Judah was reduced to a small province (called "Yehud"), ruled by a governor and consisting of a greatly reduced territory comprising Jerusalem and its environs.

Work was delayed under the reign of Cyrus the Great and Darius the First, subsequent to the arrival of Zerubbabel the governor (descendant of David) Haggai Reproaches the community for its neglect of the temple.

The Content of Haggai predominantly centers on the prophet's successful efforts to energize Jerusalem's leadership and populace in order to rebuild the temple.

Section A Hag. 1:1-11; Hag. 2:10-19 are characterized by reproaches against the people with prospects of hope.

Section B Hag. 2:1-9, 20-23 focus on encouragement and promises.

The book opens with the prophet's challenge to the leaders of Judah and the people.

Key themes in Haggai:

Four Theological themes

- Obligation to YHWH **Deut. 6:5 and Matt. 22:37**
- Holiness **1 Peter 1:16**
- Obedience that leads to reward **Deut. 28:1-6**
- Hope **Colossians 1:27**

Haggai Up close: Haggai name is interpreted make a pilgrimage derived from the Hebrew hgg, Haggai has the role of a prophet but there is no biographical information. Haggai's position marks a pivotal turning point for the book of the twelve as the time when Israel's inhabitants return to the land and to YHWH. The reconstruction of the temple appears for the first time in Haggai, and the organization of the temple is a significant focus of Zachariah 1-8. His role in the restoration of the temple and the life of the community and the unparalleled success that he enjoyed.

Explore the Text/ Lessons from Haggai:

- The **Providential Moment** vs. 2
- The **Performance of Mediocrity** vs.5b
- The **Press to MAKE IT Happen** vs. 12 and 13

The Providential Moment- vs.2

Haggai in the initial phases of his prophecy speaks of the timing of God. In particular he is speaking of the rebuilding of the temple. This was challenging for the people because of the losses they suffered from their exile.

God has called upon his people to build at a time of inconvenience. God uses the prophet Haggai to challenge the people to rejuvenate their vigor toward the mission of God. Yes they were discouraged, Yes they were hurting, Yes they did not see a clear path on how they were going to accomplish what God put before them, but God refused their solution of stagnation to be their final answer.

This Old Testament narrative through this minor prophet Haggai is a lesson that is a common thread that flows through biblical History. The ministry God calls us to are a far stretch from convenience it is in the most intense moments of our lives we will receive the call to build something great for God. **Nehemiah 1:3-8**

The Performance of Mediocrity - vs.5 *Now, therefore, thus says the lord of hosts, Consider your ways.*

This phrase Consider your ways is mentioned twice once in verse 5 and then it is mentioned again in verse 7. The prophet convicts the people of God because of their inaction. They were very active concerning rebuilding their own personal lives, but when it came to God's house they were slothful and demotivated. Luke 9:23

God is withholding God's blessings because the people have not attended to God's house

There is the principle of a cause and effect that flows through the Torah. Blessings are often tied closely to curses if certain stipulations are not met. Human actions toward God have consequences, whether positive or negative God says that there are conditions that comes with the blessings of God. **Numbers 23:8 Malachi 3:10, Genesis 12:1-3, Luke 6:38**

God has spoken in Haggai 1:6 concerning the effects of reproduction when there is a refusal to prioritize the things of God. *"Consider your ways! You have sown much, only to harvest little; you eat, but there is not enough to be satisfied; you drink, but there is not enough to become drunk; you put on clothing, but there is not enough for anyone to get warm; and the one who earns, earns wages to put into a money bag full of holes."*

"The fertility of the land suffers, and the people are hurt economically because they have failed to reckon adequately with the ramifications of their actions that Haggai believes stem from God."

The Press to MAKE IT happen

This challenged presumes they have forgotten their obligation to YHWH. Because they have focus on their own needs and desires instead of God's. **Matthew 6:26, Psalm 37:25**

The work on the temple is not viewed by Haggai as just another construction project, Haggai sees the reconstruction as a holy task for which the people and the place must be consecrated. **2 Chronicles 7:14**

Haggai, in righteous indignation, jolts the people and the leaders to change this situation, for God should not have to wait until it is convenient.

Check for Understanding

1. Does God desire for us to wait for the most convenient times to get things done?

2. Why were the people of God not seeing the work of their hands being blessed?

3. Why does Haggai say the people have forgotten about God?

Life Application

What steps will you take today to prioritize the things of God. What ways can you become more organized to give more time to God and to servitude to impact the kingdom of God.
