



Week 3: Call to Action – Consider your Ways

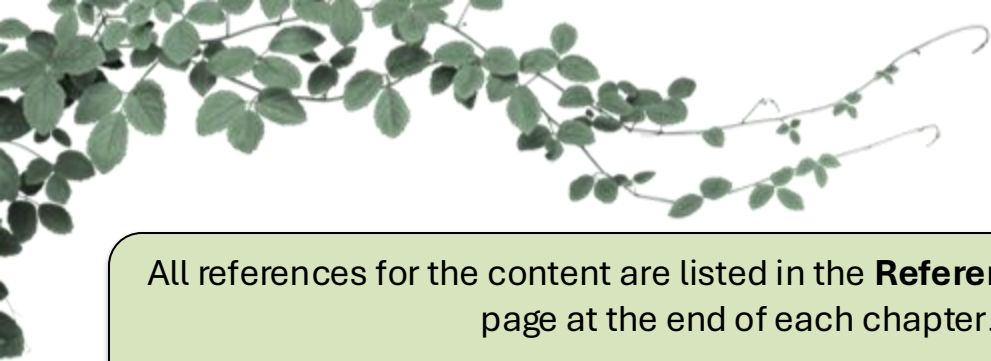


A 7 Lesson Bible Study

# Standing in the Ruins—

## Haggai

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All references for the content are listed in the **References and Resources** page at the end of each chapter.

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*Cindy Collier*

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**Standing in the Ruins –**  
*a Study of the book of Haggai*

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# Let's Begin

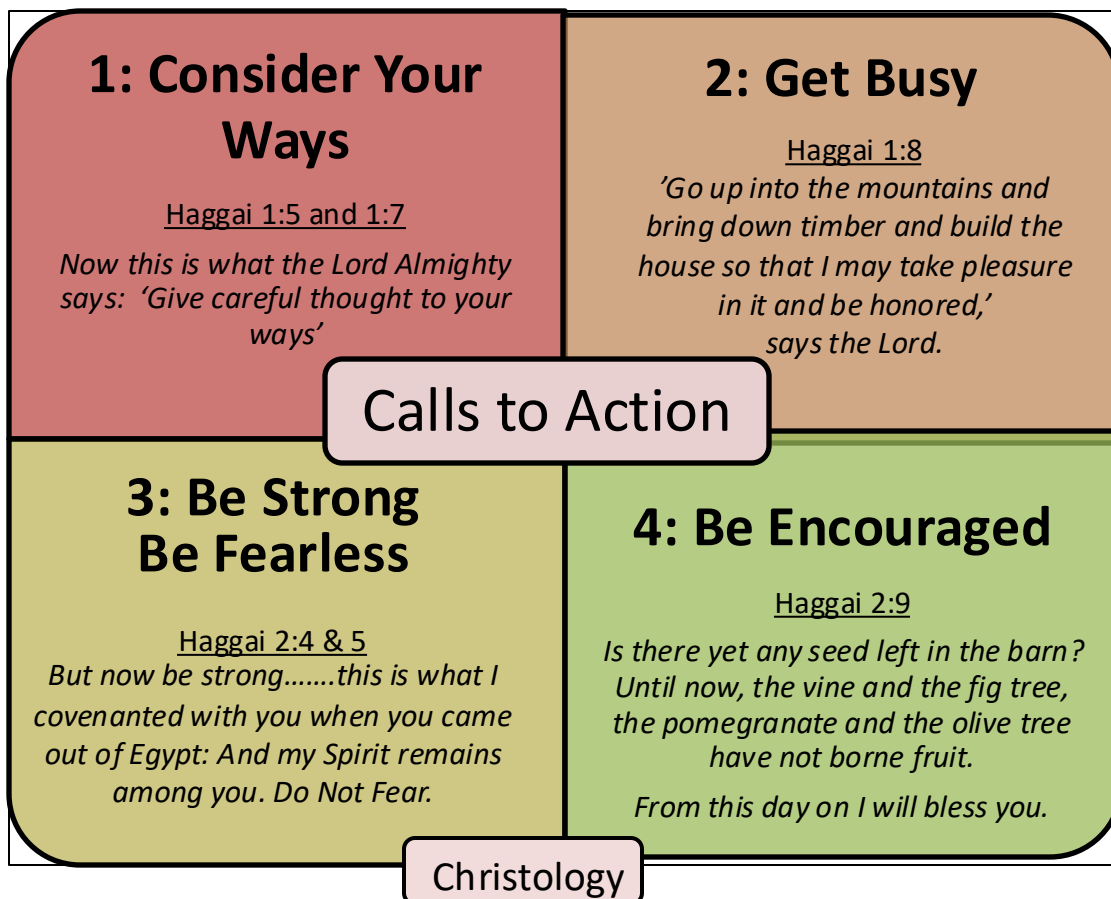
## CALLS TO ACTION

The book was organized into four broad points.

1. **Examine yourselves** to see how far away from God's will you are -- are you presently where you should be in your relationship with God?
2. **Get busy** doing what you were sent to do and take back what the enemy has destroyed.
3. **Do it with courage and without fear** because God has proven Himself faithful in the past.
4. **Be encouraged** because God holds your future and has great plans.

\*Christology – the study of Jesus in the text

Let us take a deeper dive into each of the four Calls to Action from Haggai.



# Haggai


 Chapter

5

## CALL TO ACTION #1: CONSIDER YOUR WAYS

Consider your ways. It was a command by the prophet and a good reminder for us today.

**Who is God** in this text?

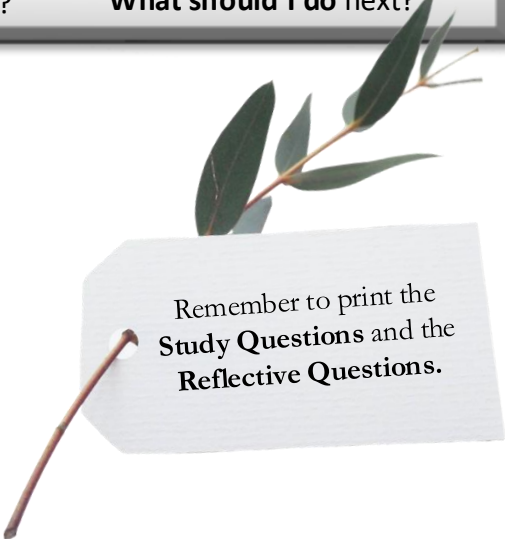
**Who am I** in relation to God?

**What should I do** next?

**W**hat happens when God gives you a task to do, but you are met with discouragement from those around you? What happens when the discouragement begins to manifest itself as an apathy for the calling? What happens when that apathy turns into a self-centered refocus of your efforts? And what happens when, during this time, everything that you set your hands to do seems to fail?

The book of Haggai begins in the span of time between Ezra 4 and Ezra 5. The two chapters of Haggai cover a period of about four months: approximately one month for Chapter 1, a month of silence between Chapters 1 and 2, and then a two-month period for Chapter 2. For about 16 years, the rebuild was stagnant, dating from the time of King Cyrus through the second year of King Darius (536 BC – 520 BC). There is some difference of opinion between historians in the nit-picky details of the history, but we will just discuss the lessons that the book presents.

Haggai begins with a people who had stopped the project of rebuilding the temple due to discouragement from those around them. God saw the events and sent Haggai a word to give to the people and their leaders. God, seeing all of the events that had transpired so far, decided that it was time to get the Jews moving. The book begins with the first of four specific calls or prophetic words from the Lord, spoken by the prophet to the exiled people.



Remember to print the  
**Study Questions** and the  
**Reflective Questions.**

### Scripture

Haggai 1:1-7

### Key Term

Priorities

### Key Verses

Haggai 1:5 and 1:7

“Now this is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘Give careful thought to your ways.’”

## Consider your ways – Examine yourself

The key word is **Priorities**.

*Give careful thought to your ways* is the theme of the first prophetic word from the Lord.

### Haggai 1: 1-5

The first chapter of Haggai:

*1 In the second year of King Darius, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest:*

The scripture begins with God giving Haggai a message only for the leaders - Zerubbabel and Joshua. God wasn't speaking to the Israelite remnant who had come to work but to the leaders who were to relay a message. First, God had to open the eyes of the leaders:

*2 This is what the Lord Almighty says: "These people say, 'The time has not yet come to rebuild the Lord's house.'"*

Go back for a minute and look at verse 2:

*"these people"*

This was the remnant that God had chosen, the people that he had called out and anointed for this task. These were His people whom He had watched over and walked with, yet He called them *these people* – not *His people* or *my people*, but *these people*. He seemed irritated and disappointed. The remnant put Him on the back burner, and they had forgotten all that He had done for them. They put themselves before God.

*3 Then the word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai:*

*4 "Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?"*

*5 Now this is what the Lord Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways.*

God was calling them to reevaluate.

Here's the back story. When King Cyrus issued the proclamation (II Chronicles 36:23) that God had appointed him to allow and provide for the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem, he granted permission for any of the Jewish exiles to participate in this project. They were given the choice and went willingly. The King sent his blessing and the promise to provide for the project.

The group of Jews who made the journey had the blessing of the King and went with zeal to rebuild what the enemy had stolen and destroyed years ago. They had entered their calling, wanting to honor God by adhering to the King's instructions and the Mosaic Law regarding the temple's structure.

Ezra 3:3 tells us that:

*3 Despite their fear of the peoples around them, they built the altar on its foundation and sacrificed burnt offerings on it to the Lord, both the morning and evening sacrifices.*

Initially, the Jews were eager to resume their worship of God. With fervor, they held to what was important and went straight to rebuilding the altar despite their fear and worry about the circumstances around them. However, due to discouragement, that fervor for God would fade away. Sometimes, a battle will wear you down.

Let me tell you about my own battle with discouragement and with fear.

## My Story:

### *BREADCRUMB TRAIL*

Let my life testify to  
His faithfulness.



God speaks to me in the strangest ways.

Looking at a line of breadcrumbs and seed that I put in my backyard for the birds, God spoke to my heart. He whispered and said: *Cindy, that trail of small snippets of nourishment is how you lived your life. You lived a breadcrumb life.*

I spent 29 years of my married life living for the next small period of time when promises were kept and when there was sobriety, sanity and peace in my “Christian” home. When you are living with an abusive alcoholic who also suffered with mental illness, you live for periods of “normal” knowing that it would only last for a short period of time. These small bits of emotional nourishment would keep me until the next breakdown would occur. Each apology and promise made during these short sober times never lasted - so discouragement and fear were my constant companions and tried to drain the strength and joy from my life.

Each crumb of emotional and spiritual solitude and peace would lead me to look for the next crumb until I found myself on a path that led to a life far from the Christian marriage I tried to portray to others.

My breadcrumb life led me to a distorted existence that I thought was normal. But this tactic of the enemy is consistent with Satan’s ways because he is a master of deception.

I was living on small crumbs of nourishment while I was starving inside. I would live from crumb to crumb until my entire view of reality became skewed. My trust was gone. In my mind, I believed the lie that the abusive life was okay because (as I was told by my Christian spouse) “everyone has problems, and God doesn’t condone divorce.”

But God saw every secret.

God doesn’t lead you to a distorted view of life. God doesn’t condone secret evil that preys on the innocent. God doesn’t want His children to live a life with a malnourished existence. Isaiah 58:11 says that:

*The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.*

In order to live abundantly, you have to get your nourishment from God by feeding on His Word, by talking with Him, and by listening.

Trust not in the words of man, and do not allow yourself to be led down the path to a distorted view of life. Ask God for clarity, wisdom, and the strength to do what He would have you do.

Will it end the way you want? Maybe not. Mine ended in divorce, and my spouse finally found his healing in death. But God is still faithful.

Trust Him alone, rely on His direction, and remember that He sees you.

## Opposition

The Samaritan people living in the land were enemies of the project of rebuilding the temple. They harassed the Jews and openly discouraged the reconstruction. When the Samaritans saw the zeal the Jews had for the project, they knew that they would have to become sneaky and conniving in their attack. These people, who were enemies of Judah (Ezra 4), thought that if they infiltrated the ranks and offered to join with the Jews in the rebuilding of the temple, they could cause problems from within.

1. Has someone entered your life and begun to change your attitudes and priorities?

With their initial zeal for the calling, the Jewish leaders had enough wisdom and discernment to see through what the Samaritans were trying to do. They realized that allowing assistance from the Samaritans might compromise the purity of their work for God. Their worship of God would be in danger of being compromised from within because the idolatry of the Samaritan people of the land would likely be slowly merged into temple worship. So, the exiled people stood firm and refused the assistance.

They did not want to be unequally yoked.

II Corinthians 6:14 says:

*Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?*

When yoked with someone or something, you are bonded together and work as one. You influence each other in a direction or path. The stronger of the two typically influences the other to go in the direction they are headed.

Think about this scenario.

*You start a new relationship and begin dating someone outside of your faith or begin spending time with a new friend who has different values, a different focus or a different set of beliefs that are counter to yours. The pull of the other person causes you to begin a compromise of your faith. It is not a blatant attack but a slow change of your priorities. You may begin to look at the world in a different way. This person may begin to open your eyes to ways of the world that are counter to the narrow way God has for you to walk. This new way may begin to look enticing and so the compromise begins.*

The Israelites were in danger of being yoked together with a group of people who would compromise their work for God. They were wise and rejected this infiltration, but the rejection of evil didn't stop it – it made evil angry.

Their response was to ramp up the opposition and bring about civil action against the new inhabitants. The constant issues and barrage of insults and discouragement wore the Jews down. The project was halted, and the Israelites and leaders lost interest and motivation for their calling.




## IMPLODE

Termites are sneaky little things. They get in before you even realize it, and once they have gained access, they begin their destruction. Interestingly enough, they work 24/7 gathering food and sharing it with their comrades and the queen who then lays eggs - producing even more of the enemy.

It is the same with our spiritual life. Satan wants to embed himself in our lives and relationships to cause damage. Sometimes, the most dangerous tactic the enemy will use is not an outward attack – one that we see coming and one that allows us time to gather the ammunition to fight – but one that will cause us to implode from within. To implode is to *collapse due to destruction beneath the surface*. This destruction renders the structure weak and unable to stand against the outside pressure.

This spiritual implosion could be caused by spending time with a new friend you knew wasn't a good influence. They slowly encourage you to drift off course by changing your attitude about your priorities. This causes an internal change in focus. It could be a new hobby that is slowly consuming your time, energy, and resources – pulling you away from the church and your spiritual priorities. It could be a new relationship with someone who doesn't hold to the same values that you do, and you find yourself drifting away from where you know you should be, and your values begin to change. It can also be emotional issues that are slowly consuming you from the inside while you put on a façade of being okay. The implosion of our spiritual lives comes slowly and before we know it we have allowed the enemy to infiltrate our ranks, our churches, our family, our relationships and our hearts.



**Can you think of anything that Satan may have snuck into your life that has affected your priorities?**

## Compromise

Even though discouraged, the people held on for a while. At the beginning, they were strong and recognized the enemy attack for what it was, but when the enemy changed tactics, they began to grow weary. The remnant was not able to push through and hold fast to the job that God had given them to do – instead, they quit. It was easier just to give in.

Commentators believe that almost 20 years had passed between returning to this land and the first messages from Haggai. It had been a long time coming – a slow turn to their own needs. Sometimes the turn is slow – slow enough that you don't realize the change. The land they returned to was different from the one they had come from, and they may have underestimated the struggles they would face in accomplishing the task they had come to do. The enemy was annoyed and pulled out all the stops in his attack.

*2. Sometimes, the enemy ramps up or changes tactics to wear you down – is this where you are in your fight? What tactics is he using?*

The Israelites were in a difficult place and faced a rough path. As things got tough, they began to take the easy way – drifting into a selfish way of life. As time went by, the remnant people had slowly allowed themselves to drift far off course. That change had become the norm.

*3. Has discouragement changed your internal compass and focus so that even the wrong way looks right or at least easier?*

The Israelites' focus had changed, and it had become their new way of life.

Selfish compromise changes our priorities.

I'm reminded of King Solomon. He had it all. The favor of God was on his life. God's call was on his life, but amid favor, he began to compromise. He loved women - all kinds of women. But with those women came a compromise of his values and of his heart. Those women brought in pagan worship and all types of beliefs and practices that were not aligned with God. Solomon started right, but his alignment became skewed, and he ended up in a bad place (I Kings 11).

Look again:

Haggai 1:5

*5 Now this is what the Lord Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways.*

God was trying to realign their focus by making them aware of just how off the path they had strayed.



## ALIGNMENT

Have you ever had your car alignment get a little off? Have you ever felt the little tug of the steering wheel that made it harder to keep moving straight ahead. It becomes more difficult to keep the wheels moving forward and if you take the easy way and just give in your car will end up off the road – off the path that it was supposed to be traveling.

Now, when my car was new, the alignment of my tires would easily allow me to go in the direction that I wanted them to go. No tug. No pressure or stress in steering. But as I went along, I hit hard bumps in the road and ran over a curb or two, causing the alignment to become a little off-center. Those rough spots caused an internal change that affected my ability to stay on the path. It grew more difficult to stay on the straight and narrow.

Is this your life? Have the hard bumps along the way caused an internal shift in alignment with God's will? Sometimes it makes it more challenging to stand firm, and it's easier to just go with the flow, even if that is right off the path that God has for your life.

Is it your parenting? You may have a challenging child, and you have grown weary of standing firm. Is it your workplace – you have grown tired of trying to be firm in your faith in a secular environment? Or is it your marriage? You are tired of standing strong and sometimes just want to give in, even though it would veer you off the path God wants you on.

Ask God to renew your strength to stand firm.

**Is there an area that is taxing your strength to stand strong? What is it?**



## Priorities

When the Israelites became discouraged, they took the easy way out and abandoned their work. Their attitude toward the project changed, and they began to say it was not the right time to rebuild the temple. Instead, they focused on selfish gain and the world's pleasures. Remember that when they were in captivity in Babylon, it was an affluent environment rich in material goods and comfort, and they were used to some of the comforts of life. This new land? This new calling? It was tough.



*4. Has there been a time in your life that God gave you a task to do and you found the task more difficult than expected?*

*or*

*He called you to a season of pruning - placing you in a place, with a group of people or facing a trial that is significantly challenging?*

Sometimes, God calls you to a tougher walk than you expect.

### For His purpose.

God had taken them back to their homeland with a job to do, but little by little, they compromised and gave up on their calling, opting instead for the easy road and returning to the life they once knew. A life of selfish ease.

But, as they did this, they found that times became difficult, and nothing they set their hand to was blessed. They worked hard to no avail because they were not walking in God's will.

Their tough times became even tougher.

As God watched and waited.

During this time the people began doting on themselves, building up their homes and living a more comfortable, but disobedient lifestyle.

Remember Haggai 1, verse 4?

*4 "Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?"*

Think about verse 4 (my paraphrase):

*So, you say it's your time...time for you to build yourselves up and use all of your time and energy to build fancy houses to live in? Look at My house! It's a mess, and you don't seem to care.*

Paneled houses were houses built with four walls and a roof. These walls may have been covered with cedar, which would have been a difficult and quite a luxury to obtain in this land. While the temple lay in ruins and its worship ceased, the people's attention turned to their own desires. God bided His time and allowed this to continue for almost two decades before He finally intervened. It was time to get His people back on track. He had tried more indirect methods to get their attention, but now it was time to speak.

When God speaks, you listen. When he points out specific things in your life that need changing, you listen. And when He tells you to get back on the path, you listen.

# PANELED HOUSES



Paneled houses and priorities.

To the Israelites, Cedar was expensive. It wasn't easy to obtain and was considered an extravagant building material. To utilize it for a building project, one would need to be determined and willing to invest a significant amount of time, effort, and finances. Because there were so many other things in their lives that competed for their attention, they had to choose to make it a priority.

According to Bible scholars, the paneled houses described in Haggai 1:4 were likely houses with walls and ceilings made of cedar wood. It was not the norm, and in this desolated land, it would have been quite a prideful show of prosperity to those looking on. The act of creating a home this luxurious was an all-consuming task that would push its way to the top of the priority list, so that other tasks would drop by the wayside.

Including the temple.

Their priorities shifted, and God was put on the back burner.

This shift in focus toward selfish desires stole their attention. It pulled the people from their God, from the task that God had appointed them to do and from giving God the time and the honor due His name. It shoved God out of first place.

It leads me to wonder....do I have paneled houses in my own life?

Sadly, I do.

My own paneled houses could be objects, people, activities, or relationships. Anything that takes my focus, my time, my energy, and has the power to reorder my priorities. Things that I spend time thinking about, worrying about, and obsessing over. Things like:

My calendar.	My pride.
The internet.	My ambition.
Entertainment.	My comforts.
My to do list.	My looks.
My finances.	My obsessions.
My relationships.	My friends.
Social media.	My hobbies.
My social life.	Even my worries.

Satan is a master of deception and has a way of working things so that your focus is slowly shifted out of alignment before you even know that it has happened. But God is a jealous God and will not accept second place.

*So, Father God help me to consider my ways, my obsessions, and my priorities. Open my eyes and bring clarity to what I have put as the focus of my life.  
Take your rightful place as first.  
Amen.*

God's words to his people let them know He had been watching and seeing everything that had transpired. His words were like a parent warning a child, *"Do you see what you are doing?"* He warned them to stop, look around, and take note of their current level of obedience.

*"Give careful thought to your ways"* (Haggai 1:5,7). In other words :

- think about what you have done;
- think about what you haven't done;
- think about the way you are now living your life;
- think about how far you have strayed from the reason that you returned to Jerusalem.

**It's time to Stop and Reevaluate your priorities.**

## Reevaluate

### Haggai 1: 6-7

As the Israelites turned their attention inward and halted the project of reconstructing the temple, their lives were anything but peaceful. Haggai 1:6-7 provides a clearer view of the chaos surrounding them.

Look what God said next.

6 *"You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it".*

7 *This is what the Lord Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways."*

Even though the Jews put a lot of effort into the creation of a life filled with comforts, nothing they put their hand to succeeded.

They:

- planted without little harvest;
- ate but were never full;
- drank but were never satisfied;
- were clothed but not warm enough and
- worked, but never earned enough to meet their needs.

The blessing of God on their life was denied because of selfish disobedience. God was trying to get their attention because they had placed their own wants and needs before Him. They had put themselves above the worship of Him.



*5. Is there an area of your life that is stagnant – not going anywhere and does not appear to be blessed?*

*Have you ever thought that God may be directing you down a different path or trying to get your attention?*

I Corinthians 3:7 tells us that:

*... neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.*

Only God can bring the increase.

And God can also deny the blessing of your labor in order to get your attention.

And He loves you enough to do so.

# SIFTING



To **sift** is to *examine thoroughly in order to isolate that which is most important or useful.*

One way to sift is by the process of *winnowing*. Winnowing is typically done with grain in order to separate the wheat from the chaff. Chaff is the dry, scaly part of the wheat that is not useful. The process is typically done by tossing the grain up into a light wind. This toss allows the wind to blow away the chaff while the heavier seed falls to the ground.

The seed is what is important.

Sometimes, our priorities need a sifting. A sifting that only God can do.

The tossing of the wheat can be a scary process. At times, I felt like my own life had been turned upside down and everything thrown around. Some things were rearranged, and some things were blown away – lost forever.

God's correction sometimes comes in the form of winnowing. He sifts through our relationships, our activities even our finances and gets rid of what is not important. If we allow Him and welcome His sifting, our lives will stay aligned with His priorities.

Sometimes the tossing is uncomfortable. God will deny things we ask for, He will tell us no and He will not bless things we think are important. It's His sifting.

The sifting process will look different to each person. God chose not to bless me with children of my own and denied my almost constant request. For some reason, He had other plans for my life, and I had to trust Him.

I had to trust that it was His process for rearranging my life, prioritizing the things He wanted – the things that were best for me and those that fit the purpose for which I was created.

It's not easy. It wasn't easy for the Israelites, but His denial of the blessing on their labor was, in essence, a sifting. Their priorities were skewed, and he was allowing the things that were not important to be blown away. He was trying to get their attention and their priorities realigned.

He loved them enough to want them back.

Thank you God for sifting.

*Father God, sift my life. Take away what is not important and only leave what is.  
Amen.*

## God's Discipline

God loves us enough to bring discipline to our lives. Job 5:17 tells us this about God's correction:

*Blessed is the one whom God corrects:  
so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty.*

When I go through his corrections and face the hardships that sometimes come with that process, it is a bit uncomfortable. Having God tell me 'no' is something I don't like to hear. Having God deny my request or deny blessing the labor of my hands can be difficult and painful. But when I get to the other side and look back at what I learned through his correction and discipline.....

I praise Him.

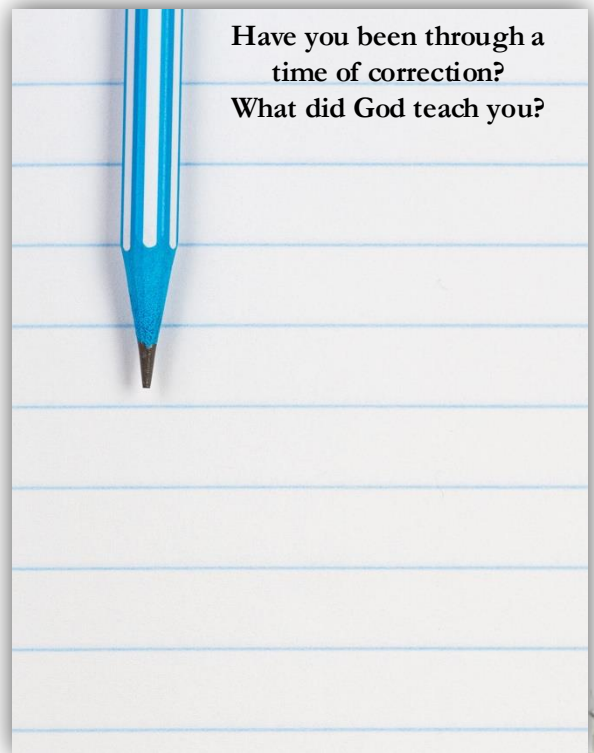
Think about it this way:

*Have you ever watched a parent who is supposed to be helping a child learn a new skill but is too busy with other things? As the child is trying to do the task, the parent may be on social media, talking on the phone, or even taking a nap. They are inattentive and not really watching the child. They are too busy to make corrections to the mistakes that the child makes. They are too busy to call out the child by name, bringing their attention to errors. They are too busy to give feedback and direction, so the child never really learns the skill.*

That is not our God.

God loved them enough to say *“Stop! Look at what you're doing and get back on track. Consider your ways – your life and your priorities.”*

- Nothing the people did was blessed because He was paying attention.
- He called the people out by name because He cared.
- He pointed out how far the people had drifted because He wanted them back.



## Summary

The first call to action from Haggai to the people of Israel was packed with lessons that we can apply to our lives today:

It was about:

- Being strong for the task that they had been given as they encounter enemy attacks.
- Standing up as the enemy tried different tactics to infiltrate and weaken the ranks from within.
- Standing firm even when you begin to lose strength.

It was about:

- The danger of allowing discouragement to compromise your priorities.
- Knowing that sometimes doing what God wants us to do is not the easiest road – sometimes it's the more difficult one.
- Understanding that God wanted their attention and did everything He could to get it. He loved them enough to deny the blessing of their labor. They were slow to realize their priorities had shifted and had left God behind.

This was a time of correction for the people – He called them by name and called them out on specific issues.

He showed them He had been watching.

He cared enough to discipline.

He wanted them first to consider their ways.

## Biblical References



## Takeaways and Tasks

- Has the enemy destroyed something in your life? Has God (the King) given the proclamation that you are to build back what the enemy has stolen or destroyed? Don't allow things to get in the way of taking back the stolen ground. Don't allow yourself to lack the perseverance needed to finish the job.

**Spend some time alone with God.**

**He will provide the things you need to finish the task.**

- Sometimes, our priorities change due to the difficulties we have in walking the path God has appointed us. Don't allow God to move to the bottom, and our selfish needs and comforts of life move to the top of our priority list.

**Examine how you spend your time, energy, and resources.**

**Examine your priorities.**

- Remember that evil may try to infiltrate the ranks of your life to destroy from within.

**Be observant. Be discerning. Seek wisdom.**

- Sometimes, God brings correction and discipline to the lives of His children by denying the blessing of our labor. He loves us enough to keep us close to Him.


**Be sensitive to God's correction.**

**He is watching and will make changes to the alignment of your life if you allow Him.**

### Prayer

*Father God, open my eyes and help me to consider my ways. Show me where I may have been disobedient, either through blatant decisions or ignorant indecision. If I have strayed from Your will, get me back on the path. Help me walk in obedience with perseverance and without fear. I love you dearly.*

*Amen.*



# Study Questions

As you go through each of the Chapter's Study Questions – you should first answer this question. This will guide the remaining questions.

## **Who was God in the text?**

What does it teach us about God, his character, who He is, and what he does?

# Study Questions Chapter 4

## Haggai: *Calls to Action*

**Haggai 1:3**  
 Then the word of the Lord came by the hand of Haggai the prophet.....

As you begin to work through the book of Haggai, begin to look for God – how is he displayed?

**Answer in a few words the following:**

1. What is the 1<sup>st</sup> call to action?

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2. What is the verse paired with the 1st call?

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3. What is the 2<sup>nd</sup> call to action?

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4. What is the verse paired with the 2nd call?

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5. What is the 3rd call to action?

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6. What is the verse paired with the 3rd call?

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7. What is the 4th call to action?

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8. What is the verse paired with the 4th call?

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9. What does the word Christology mean?

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10. Knowing the four Calls to Action how do you see this impacting your own spiritual walk?

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## Study Questions Chapter 5

### Haggai: A Call to Action #1

#### *Consider Your Ways*

#### Haggai 1:5 and 1:7

Now this is what the Lord Almighty says:  
'Give careful thought to your ways'.

Consider your ways. It was a command by the prophet and a good reminder for us today..

**Answer in a few words the following:**

1. What did God call the people in verse 2 that let us know that He was a bit disgusted with their behavior?

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2. What was the first part of the temple that they began rebuilding when they got to Jerusalem and why?

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3. What was the sneaky tactic used by the Samaritans to discourage their work?

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4. The 1<sup>st</sup> call was to "consider your ways"- what does that mean?

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5. The Israelite 's focus changed due to discouragement and fear. How did it change? What did they begin doing?

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6. What other prominent figure in the Old Testament had their priorities change due to the influence of others?

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6. a. What is a paneled house?

b. Why was God upset?

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7. What was the Israelite ' s excuse for stopping work on the temple?

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8. Name some things that happened to the Israelites because of their disobedience.

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9. What does Job say about the correction or discipline of God? Name a type of discipline or correction that God may bring.

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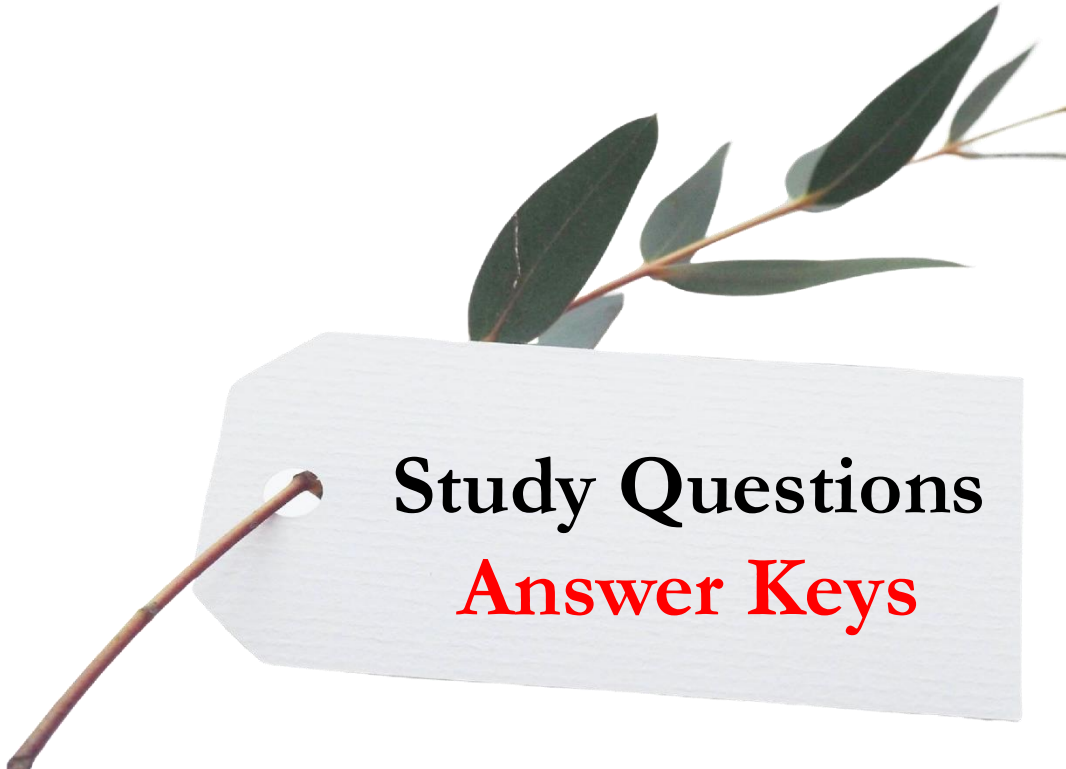
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10. Name something else God taught you through this passage of scripture.

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**Study Questions**  
**Answer Keys**

## Study Questions Chapter 4

### Haggai: *Calls to Action*

**Haggai 1:3**  
Then the word of the Lord came by the prophet....

**ANSWER KEY**

As you begin to work through the book of Haggai, begin to look for God – how is he displayed?

Answer in a few words the following:

1. What is the 1<sup>st</sup> call to action?

*Consider Your Ways*

2. What is the verse paired with the 1st call?

*Haggai 1:5 & Haggai 1:7*

3. What is the 2<sup>nd</sup> call to action?

*Get Busy*

4. What is the verse paired with the 2nd call?

*Haggai 1:8*

5. What is the 3rd call to action?

*Be Strong – Be Fearless*

6. What is the verse paired with the 3rd call?

*Haggai 2:4 & 5*

7. What is the 4th call to action?

*Be Encouraged*

8. What is the verse paired with the 4th call?

*Haggai 2:9*

9. What does the word Christology mean?

*The study of Jesus in the text*

10. Knowing the four Calls to Action how do you see this impacting your own spiritual walk?

## Study Questions Chapter 5

### Haggai: A Call to Action #1

#### Consider Your Ways

#### Haggai 1:5 and 1:7

Now this is what the Lord Almighty  
'Give careful thought to your ways'.

**ANSWER KEY**

Consider your ways. It was a command by the prophet and a good reminder for us today..

#### Answer in a few words the following:

1. What did God call the people in verse 2 that let us know that He was a bit disgusted with their behavior?

"these people"

2. What was the first part of the temple that they began rebuilding when they got to Jerusalem and why?

Altar – they wanted to begin sacrifices again

3. What was the sneaky tactic used by the Samaritans to discourage their work?

To infiltrate the ranks by offering to help

rebuild the temple and cause problems from within.

4. The 1<sup>st</sup> call was to "consider your ways"- what does that mean?

To examine your behavior and actions

5. The Israelite's focus changed due to discouragement and fear. How did it change? What did they begin doing?

They drifted to a selfish way of life by

building luxurious houses for themselves

6. What other prominent figure in the Old Testament had their priorities change due to the influence of others?

King Solomon

6. a. What is a paneled house?

b. Why was God upset?

a. Building with 4 walls and a roof

b. They had put their needs before him.

7. What was the Israelite's excuse for stopping work on the temple?

They thought it wasn't time to rebuild the temple

8. Name some things that happened to the Israelites because of their disobedience.

Planted with little harvest, drank but not satisfied, wages never enough to meet their needs,

clothed but not warm

9. What does Job say about the correction or discipline of God? Name a type of discipline or correction that God may bring.

Blessed is the man whom God corrects

When God says "no"

10. Name something else God taught you through this passage of scripture.

A photograph of a branch with several green leaves and a small white tag attached to it with a string. The tag is the central focus of the image and contains the title 'Reflective Questions'.

## Reflective Questions

As you work through the Reflective Questions, you should also answer these two overarching questions.

### **Who am I in relation to God?**

How does learning about who God is determine who you are in relation to Him?

### **What should I do next?**

This is the application phase. What is my next step using what I have learned?

# PERSONAL REFLECTION

## CHAPTER 4: CALLS TO ACTION



How is God speaking to you through this chapter?

Begin to think about your own testimony. Use these reflective questions to begin to refine your testimony so that you can give glory to Him.

### Question 1

Begin to examine yourself. How would you rate your spiritual health?

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### Question 2

Are you being fed spiritually with theologically accurate teaching?

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### Question 3

How is your Bible reading – is it consistent?

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### Question 4

How is your prayer life?

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### Question 5

Are you giving more than you are spiritually consuming? Are you monitoring for burnout?

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### Question 6

Do you have someone you can go to for spiritual guidance?

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### Question 7

Are you willing to guide someone who is a step behind you in their spiritual walk?

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### Question 8

Begin thinking about who God has been in your life.

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# PERSONAL REFLECTION

## CHAPTER 5: CONSIDER YOUR WAYS



**Your Story**  
How is God speaking to you through this lesson?

**Question 1**

Has someone entered your life and begun to change your attitudes and priorities?

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**Question 2**

Sometimes, the enemy ramps up or changes tactics to wear you down – is this where you are in your fight? What tactics is he using?

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**Question 3**

Has discouragement changed your internal compass and focus so that even the wrong way looks right or at least easier?

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**Question 4**

Has there been a time in your life that God gave you a task to do and you found the task more difficult than expected?

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or

Has He called you to a season of pruning - placing you in a place, with a group of people or facing a trial that is significantly challenging?

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Talk about it.

**Question 5**

Is there an area of your life that is stagnant – not going anywhere and does not appear to be blessed? What area?

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or

Have you ever thought that God may be directing you down a different path or trying to get your attention? What could this be?

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## Resources & References

for all content

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