

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

**ADVENT 2015**

These questions are for the **November 29, 2015** sermon, "The Christmas Promise, Part 1." Please read the sermon passage (Haggai 2:1-9) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline:

In our Advent preparations . . .

1. **Consider the questions that God has posed** (1-3)
  - A. In God's sovereignty every event is perfectly timed.
  - B. QUESTIONS ASKED:
    - i. Who has seen the glory of the Lord?
    - ii. How do you see the temple now? Isn't it in complete ruins? Where is your passion?
  - C. The prophet asks the question of the political leader (Zerubbabel), the spiritual leader (Joshua) and to the people in general.
2. **The challenge God has delivered** (4-5)
  - A. Be strong people, put on your courage. It's time to get after it.
  - B. Don't let your service become rote. Routines alone are weak.
  - C. If it feels the whole world stands against you, then stand against the whole world!
3. **The promise God has made** (6-9)
  - A. God will shake the heavens (vertical) and earth (horizontal).
  - B. God will set "the desire of the nations" in his place in the temple. He will bring Messiah.
  - C. While Babylonians loot the temple of gold and silver, God will fill the temple with his own glory when he sends his Son (and by the way, he still owns all the silver and gold!).

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Do you serve the Lord because of your comfortable routine? Or because of a burning passion and love? How can you re-kindle a serving that comes from the fact that you have seen the glory of the Lord?
2. Based on #1, above: Haggai asked this question of passion to the king, the priest and the people. How has the passion of one friend (one single person) made a difference in your life? How might your obedience and passion impact the obedience and motivation of another person?
3. Based on #2, above: Haggai calls for a rekindled passion, and only then does he call the people to work. What is your work in passionately serving God's kingdom today? What are you doing?
4. Based on #3, above: No matter how people resist, Jesus is the desire of every nation. How can you improve at talking about this reality with your friends and family?
5. Based on #3, above: The Messiah will come again, but we live in a day where part of this prophecy has been fulfilled. The Lord has made good on his promise to fill the temple with his own glory. How has your life been shaped by the reality that Jesus has come? Accomplished God's purposes? Paid for your sin? Been raised from the dead? That Jesus is your "peace with God"?