

Week 1: Consider your Ways

Overview: Sometimes our lives feel busy but spiritually empty – and God wants to get our attention. In Haggai’s time, God called His people to “consider their ways” because they had focused on comfort – and personal needs – over worship. This message invites students to evaluate what they’ve been building their lives around and whether God is truly first. But God’s correction is always an invitation to return and rebuild with Him.

Key Scripture: Haggai 1:1-15

Supporting Scripture: Matthew 6:33, James 4:8

CONTENT

Key Takeaway: We can’t build something that lasts if God isn’t first.

Overview of Haggai 1: The word of the Lord comes to the people, calling them to repent of their neglect of the temple. They were focused on the normal duties of their lives, and the Lord withheld prosperity and blessing from them (1:10-11). The Lord calls them, and stirs their spirits, to obey Him and to work toward the rebuilding of the temple.

Key Points

- What are you building your life around?
 - The people were building comfortable homes while God’s house was being ignored (v. 4)
 - As students, we may not be “building houses”, but we spend hours building our image, grades, sports status, or social presence.
 - What takes priority in your schedule? Time with God? Or screen time?
 - Like the people of Haggai’s day, we get busy building our own comfort, but God asks, “What about me?” (vv. 4-9)
 - Matthew 6:33: Seek first the kingdom
- When worship feels empty, it’s often (not always) a priority problem
 - “You eat but are not satisfied...earn wages only to put them in a purse with holes.” (v. 6)
 - When we make life about ourselves, it never feels full - it’s like pouring into a leaky bucket.
 - Their worship was full of activity but no fruit. Their hearts weren’t aligned. (vv. 6-11)
- God’s call is grace – not guilt
 - God invites them (and us) to consider our ways, not to shame us, but to bring us back to Him (v. 5, 7).
 - He doesn’t say, “you’re too far gone”. He says “Come back to me.” (v. 7)

- Repentance isn't shame – it's a fresh start.
 - Romans 2:4 – God's kindness leads to repentance.

Gospel Application: We can't rebuild our lives on our own. Jesus came not just to call us back to God, but to make the way for us to return. On the cross, He took the weight of our misplaced priorities and offered us a new foundation — one that is solid, lasting, and full of grace. Because of Jesus, every time we drift, God welcomes us back with open arms.

Key Question: Where in your life do your priorities say, “me first” when God is asking for “Him first”?

APPLICATION

Activity Suggestions

- Priority cards: students list their top 5 time/energy commitments. Are they building comfort or God's kingdom?
- Extended Prayer / Reflection time: give extra time with 2-3 reflection prompts to prayerfully consider what they've put ahead of God.
- Fasting/Abstinence challenge: challenge students to fast or abstain from something this week (food, phone, entertainment, etc.)

Community Group Questions

- Re-read Haggai 1:1-15. What stands out most in this passage? What was God upset about?
- What are signs in your life that God isn't your primary priority right now?
- What happens when we worship God with the wrong priorities?
- What's one area God might be asking you to “consider your ways”?