

## Week 2: I Am with You

**Overview:** Even when obedience feels small or unimpressive, God says, “Be strong and keep going, I am with you.” This message will encourage students who might feel discouraged, unseen, or unsure if what they’re doing for God really matters. Just like the people rebuilding the temple, they are reminded that faithfulness today leads to greater glory tomorrow. God’s presence is the promise that carries them forward.

**Key Scripture:** Haggai 2:1-9

**Supporting Scripture:** Galatians 6:9, Ephesians 3:20

### CONTENT

**Key Takeaway:** God is with you – even when it feels like you’re starting over.

**Overview of Haggai 2:1-9:** The word of the Lord comes to the people again, assuring them of His presence, calling them to be strong and work, and pointing forward to a hope that the house of the Lord will be more glorious than it was in former times.

#### Key Points

- God doesn’t compare your progress – He honors your obedience.
  - The new temple didn’t look as impressive as Solomon’s, but God still promised to be with them (vv. 3-4).
  - It’s easy to feel like our prayers, effort, or obedience isn’t “enough”
    - You might not be preaching sermons or leading worship, but God sees every small act of faith – like choosing honesty, kindness, or consistency in your faith.
    - Galatians 6:9: Don’t grow weary in doing good.
- God’s presence is your strength to keep going.
  - God tells them “Be strong...and work.” – not because of results, but because He is with them (v. 4).
  - You’re not working for God’s approval - you’re working with His presence. God’s with you in the lunchroom, on the basketball court, and when you’re trying to resist temptation.
- God is building something greater
  - “The glory of this present house will be greater...” (v. 9)
    - Even when our efforts feel small, God is working through them to bring future glory.
  - Even when it feels small or unseen, obedience now is building a future impact.

- Choosing to read your Bible, serve consistently, or invite a friend to church may seem small, but it's part of something eternal.
- Ephesians 3:20: God can do more than we ask or imagine.

**Gospel Application:** Jesus came as the ultimate sign that God is with us – Immanuel. Because of Him, we don't serve a distant God; we walk with a Savior who lived among us, understands us, and empowers us by His Spirit. Even when our lives feel messy or unfinished, Jesus never leaves us. We build with boldness because the cross and resurrection prove that God's with us in every step.

**Key Question:** What's one area where you need to trust that God is with you – even when you don't see results?

## **APPLICATION**

### **Activity Suggestions**

- Past Faithfulness Timeline: reflect on how God has moved in your life so far. Where do you see His fingerprints?
  - Find an anchor memory verse that will remind you of God's faithfulness, even when you feel like He's not present.
- "Start small" wall – write small spiritual steps you want to start this Advent (5-minute prayer, daily Bible reading, etc.)

### **Community Group Questions**

- Re-read Haggai 2:1-9. What stood out to you? Why do you think people were discouraged about the temple?
- When have you felt like your obedience didn't "look impressive"?
- How does God's promise, "I am with you" change the way you see small acts of faith?
- What's something small God may be asking you to do in this season?
- How has God shown up in your past when you stayed faithful?