

## Week 3: From Ruins to Renewal

**Overview:** God cares not just about what we do, but the heart we bring to it. As Haggai calls the people to return with sincerity and holiness, students are invited to consider what kind of legacy they're building. When we give God our full attention and obedience, He meets us with blessing and purpose. This message ends our study of Haggai with a call to long-term faithfulness and trust that God is building something beautiful through us.

**Key Scripture:** Haggai 2:10-23

**Supporting Scripture:** 1 John 1:9, Hebrews 6:10

### CONTENT

**Key Takeaway:** When we return to God with whole hearts, He builds something beautiful through us.

**Overview of Haggai 2:10-23:** The Lord reminds the people that due to their “unclean” offerings before the Lord - because of their neglect of the temple, God caused there to be lack and decay of their produce. Now though, the Lord promises to bless His people. Then the Lord declares a time to come where He will overthrow the kingdoms of the world, and then He speaks to Zerubbabel. He says that He will make him a “signet ring,” but this has future language, and seems to be speaking of another “Zerubbabel” to come.”

#### Key Points

- God doesn't just want our actions – He wants our hearts.
  - “Whatever they do...and whatever they offer...is defiled” (v. 14)
    - The people had started rebuilding, but God reminded them that it's not just about doing – it's about worshiping Him with sincerity.
    - If we do the “right things” with the wrong motives, we still miss God.
    - Isaiah 29:13: They honor me with lips, but their hearts are far from me.
- God meets our repentance with blessing.
  - “From this day on I will bless you.” (v. 19)
    - Once they turned back to Him, God promised to bless them from that day forward (vv. 18-19)
  - He doesn't wait for us to be perfect – He blesses a heart turned toward Him.
    - No matter how messy life may seem right now, God can start something new in you.
      - 1 John 1:9: if we confess, He is faithful to forgive.
- God honors faithful people with legacy
  - Zerubbabel isn't just a leader – God says he's like His “signet ring” – a symbol of lasting impact (v. 23)

- God uses ordinary people to build legacy when they stay faithful.
  - Hebrews 6:10: God is not unjust; He will not forget your work.

**Gospel Application:** Jesus didn't just fix what was broken — He made all things new. On the cross, He bore our guilt and failure, and in His resurrection, He gave us a clean slate. Through Him, our story doesn't end in ruins — it's rewritten in grace. When we give our whole hearts to Jesus, He not only forgives — He builds something through us that outlives us.

**Key Question:** What kind of legacy do you want to build — and what decision today will help you start?

## **APPLICATION**

### **Activity Suggestions**

- “This is my why” card – students write down WHY they want to follow Jesus.
- Spiritual reset night – lead students through a short time of personal repentance and recommitment to God.
- Legacy letter: write a letter to your future self about who you want to be by the end of high school.

### **Community Group Questions**

- Re-read Haggai 2:10-23. What stood out?
- What does it mean to return to God with your whole heart?
- What's the difference between doing good things for God vs. with God?
- How does repentance prepare your heart to receive blessing?
- What legacy do you want to leave behind in your school? Church?
- What's a specific step you can take this week to renew your walk with God?