

**Devotion Guidelines:**

1. Keep it short and interactive
2. Read the Scripture passage together with each person reading a verse
3. Ask questions about each verse
4. Ask each child how they will apply what they have learned from the verses. (Even your young children) You, as a parent, also share what you will apply. Remember that Bible study is for application and transformation not just for information.)
5. Pray together as a family (You and your children can take turns praying)
  - For each other's requests
  - To ask for God's help to apply what you have learned

**Read****Together:****Haggai 2:1-9** “*On*

the twenty-first of the seventh month, the word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet saying,<sup>2</sup> “Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people saying,<sup>3</sup> ‘Who is left among you who saw this temple in its former glory? And how do you see it now? Does it not seem to you like nothing in comparison?’<sup>4</sup> But now take courage, Zerubbabel,’ declares the Lord, ‘take courage also, Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and all you people of the land take courage,’ declares the Lord, ‘and work; for I am with you,’ declares the Lord of hosts. <sup>5</sup> ‘As for the promise which I made you when you came out of Egypt, My Spirit is abiding in your midst; do not fear!’<sup>6</sup> For thus says the Lord of hosts, ‘Once more in a little while, I am going to shake the heavens and the earth, the sea also and the dry land. <sup>7</sup> I will shake all the nations; and they will come with the wealth of all nations, and I will fill this house with glory,’ says the Lord of hosts. <sup>8</sup> ‘The silver is Mine and the gold is Mine,’ declares the Lord of hosts. <sup>9</sup> ‘The latter glory of this house will be greater than the former,’ says the Lord of hosts, ‘and in this place I will give peace,’ declares the Lord of hosts.”

**Talk Together:**

1. Based on verses 1 to 3, what did the people think about the temple they were building? How did this made them feel?
2. What were the instructions of God to the people in verse 4?
3. Following those instructions, what were the promises of God in the next verses? What does that mean?

**Conviction:**

Whenever I get discouraged in the midst of trials and difficulties, I will fix my eyes on God's presence and promises to me.

**Application:**

What should my proper focus and perspective be whenever I face discouragements as I pursue God's priorities for me?

**Pray Together:**

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your promise that You will always be with us. Whenever we lose our focus on You, help us to remember of Your presence and promise in our lives. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

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