

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

The Lord Reigns, No Other Name, Blessed Be Your Name, At the Cross, Jesus at the Center

WELCOME

First and Last. What is usually the first thing in your mind when you wake up in the morning and the last thing before you sleep at night?

WORD

HAGGAI 2:3-4

³Who 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? ⁴But 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.

The people of God during Haggai's time were discouraged in building the temple. They did not want to prioritize it. They saw that the new temple was nothing compared with the old glorious temple built by Solomon. God, however, commanded the leaders of the land and His people to take courage and to work instead. This was because He was with them in every inch of the building construction (**Haggai 2:2-4**).

Discouragement is a real problem. When we are discouraged, it becomes difficult to put our priorities in order. When current experience does not meet expectation, it results in discouragement. The bigger the difference and the gap in between, the greater the discouragement will be.

FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS

When we are discouraged, depressed, or anxious, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith (**Hebrews 12:2**). If we are too focused on people, sooner or later they will disappoint us. Let us decide as early as now to focus on Jesus before disappointment even comes.

How do we usually get discouraged? You see, a discouraging event is a trigger. It starts with an event that we process in our mind which then ends up with a conclusion. We process things based on our built-in assumptions and beliefs. Then, that conclusion determines our emotions. Now, when we are emotionally charged, we most likely end up with a damaging impulse moving us to actions that we end up regretting later.

Our beliefs affect our behavior. The way we think affects our emotions. Therefore, it is important to process our

thinking properly in order to manage our emotions and our behavior. Practice no quick judgments if a person seems to have done something wrong. Do not think of the worst thing that may happen, but instead pause to process things properly and guard our minds with what we think (**Philippians 4:8**).

First things first, when we are discouraged, fix our eyes on Jesus, focus on His presence, His promise, and His provision.

FOCUS ON GOD'S PRESENCE

We should fix our eyes on Jesus to overcome negative emotions. Remember, we have nothing to fear because He is always with us (**Haggai 2:5**).

When we process a discouraging event, God's command is for us to take heart. The same devastating event can happen to two people but the way they process it can cause them to have different responses. One can end up being more faithful, the other can become hopeless.

When we do not understand the problem, just be honest with God and keep trusting Him.

FOCUS ON GOD'S PROMISE

We are to fix our eyes on Jesus when problems come; we should remember His promises. To know and claim His promises, go read the Bible.

God has promised His people that He will shake the earth, and one day the wealth of all nations will come to Israel (**Haggai 2:6-7**). God has promised that He will once again shake not only earth but also the heavens (**Hebrews 12:26**). Everything on earth will be shaken and removed (**2 Peter 3:10-11**). So it does not matter

WORD (cont'd)

how beautiful our houses, or lofty our properties, or high-tech our gadgets, or awesome our cars are, for they will all be destroyed when the Day of the Lord comes. Only we, His people, will last and will stand as kings and queens, princes and princesses in His Kingdom (**Hebrews 12:28**).

It is awesome to know our future is in the Lord so that we do not lose heart. The more we get excited about the future, the more we keep serving God today with reverence and awe.

FOCUS ON GOD'S PROVISION

Let's fix our eyes on Jesus and focus on His provision. Many times, we worry or get anxious about how to make ends meet. But whatever God started, He will complete. God owns everything. Silver and gold are His. With His provision, God promised that the glory

of the new temple will be greater than the former; and in this temple, where His presence dwells, He will give peace (**Haggai 2:8-9**). How was this fulfilled?

Today, we understand that we are God's temple where the Holy Spirit dwells (**1 Corinthians 3:16-17**). Our individual lives are the building-blocks of this holy temple with Christ Himself as the chief cornerstone (**Ephesians 2:19-22**). What can compare then with the glory of Jesus in our midst?

We are in the construction business of God. Every time we evangelize, God is building His temple one brick at a time, one soul, and one family, at a time. We are being built together to become the dwelling place of God. Because He is both the Master Architect and the Owner, He will provide for its construction and completion. God's work done in His way will never lack God's resources. He will surely bring it to completion.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. **Take Courage.** What was the Lord's encouragement in **Haggai 2:3-4**? Who was He encouraging?
2. **Fix not Mix.** What causes you to deter your focus on God?
3. **Eye Check Up.** Is it easy to focus your eyes on God? Based on our lesson today, how are you to fix your eyes on God?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

We cannot focus if we are spiritually blind to begin with. Truth is, there are people in your life who obviously need spiritual eye check-up to see Jesus in the first place. They are probably spiritual blind, or cross-eyed, or they may have spiritual eye disease, or they simply just have poor eye sight. If their spiritual eye sight will be examined and corrected with the divine lens, they will begin to see Jesus and focus their sight on Him.

Use this metaphor to share the gospel to this kind of people in your life.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends