



Small Group Notes

1. Digging Deeper

Question: Has there been a time in your life when you said 'Yes' when you should have said 'No' (for example, a time commitment, a purchase, etc.)? Why do you think many of us struggle with saying 'No'?

Question: Today we began our 3-week series in Haggai, looking at *Practicing Priorities*. Oftentimes, we want to fit God into our priorities rather than making *Him* our Priority. How do these two statements differ?

Read: Ezra 4:1-5

Question: The Israelites did not want to work on the temple because they felt opposition from the Samaritans. Things got hard. Have you ever given up or felt like giving up because of opposition? How can we persevere and encourage fellow believers to persevere in the midst of opposition?

Read: Haggai 1:2-4

Question: The Israelites were putting their own wants and needs above God. We often, like them, like to take care of ourselves first and give God what's left. In what ways have you found yourself giving God your leftovers? How can we shift to giving Him our all?

2. Assess Your Heart

Read Haggai 1:12-15 and Matthew 28:16-20.

The Israelites had prioritized serving themselves and their own comfort over serving God. But, when God told them they were wrong, they repented and made a change. As they followed the command of God, He promised to be with them. We also see this promise to Christ's followers in the passage in Matthew. In what ways have you been putting your own comforts and desires over God? How can you repent and make a change? What do you think of the Christ's promise to be with His followers?

3. Apply The Truth

Based on this week's sermon and discussion, what changes are you going to make in the coming days, weeks, and years?
