

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of January 16-21, 2022
“ANTIDOTE TO DISCOURAGEMENT”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

What is your favourite love song?

For the small group facilitator, it is suggested that you share to the group the context of the book of Haggai before going to the discussion proper.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read **HAGGAI 2:1-9**.

1. (Optional.) What lesson struck you from Haggai 1 of the past week's message?
2. What questions did God ask of the people? What did these questions reveal about what was happening in their hearts? What similar negative comparison did the older returnees give when they laid down the foundation of the temple 16 years ago (Ezra 3:8-12)?
3. What does Paul say about comparison in 2 Corinthians 10:12? Who or what do you most often measure yourself or your situation against? How does comparison affect your contentment and peace?
4. What discourages you the most in your service for the Lord? How important is acknowledging the Lord's presence in your present circumstance? How does this encourage a discouraged Christian?
5. Haggai gives his second message on the final day of the Feast of Tabernacles/Booths. What is the significance of his words in verse 5 in relation with this feast?
6. In the message, you were asked to reflect how God has seen you through in the past in four categories: (1) disappointment, (2) tragedy, (3) direction, (4) a near miss. Share to the group at least one personal experience from these categories where you experienced his hand upon you.

7. Reread Haggai 2:6-9. Note the repeated expression “I will.” It is not about what the people were doing but about what God would do. What areas in your life do you tend to expect God to provide instantaneously? Why is it important to remember it is really God at work and that the picture may be bigger than you?

8. NEXT STEPS

If God is with you, he is working. And no matter how small a way, it cannot be inferior because God is there.

- When discouragement slips in, I will remember that God is with me and I am not alone.
- I will remember God's provision in the past.
- I will invest for eternity because God has a purpose in my life.

Don't forget to:

- Go through the devotionals every day this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.

CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray to be sensitive to God's presence, to be encouraged by his past faithfulness, and to be confident in his future plans.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE.

January 16 Haggai 2:6-9
January 17 2 Corinthians 12:1-10
January 18 Psalms 27:11-14
January 19 Haggai 2:10-14
January 20 2 Samuel 7:1-17
January 21 Haggai 2:15-19
January 22 Haggai 2:20-23