

The background of the entire image is a close-up photograph of a grey concrete surface that is heavily cracked and weathered. The cracks are irregular and run in various directions, creating a textured, fragmented appearance. The lighting is somewhat uneven, with darker shadows in the crevices of the cracks.

# HAGGAI

**WHAT ARE YOU BUILDING?**

**2 studies in Haggai  
for individuals, small groups and 1:1**



## Welcome to Haggai

This series of studies accompanies the short 2-week teaching series in Haggai at Trinity Mount Barker in November 2017.

If you're using these studies in a **Bible Study Group**, try to make sure you've read the passage and done your preparation before you meet. This will be of great benefit not only to you, but also to the other members of your group.

If you're a **Bible Study Group Leader** please don't feel that your group needs to answer every question in every study. With such a wide variety of ages and personalities in our church, we have included a number of different types of questions, including some which reflect on the same points, just from slightly different perspectives. Please choose the questions most appropriate for your group.

If you're doing these studies **individually**, why not let someone know you are doing so, and arrange a time to meet with them when you've finished (or even before) to let them know how your life is being changed by God's Word.

Always surround your time looking into God's Word with prayer, asking God to change your heart and life so that you - with God's people - might become more and more like our Lord Jesus Christ.

These studies are intended to be done before the sermon on the same passage, although of course, you can do them any way that is helpful to you!

### Recommended Reading:

*Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi*. Tyndale OT Commentaries. Andrew E Hill  
*The Message of Ezra & Haggai*, Bible Speaks Today, Robert Fyall.

### Online Resources

The introduction to Haggai from the Tyndale commentary above is available as a **free PDF download** [www.mytmb.me/haggaitotc](http://www.mytmb.me/haggaitotc)

*Haggai* video Intro from The Bible Project. See Study 1



## Study 1

## Haggai 1:1 - 15

**1.** What building project, hobby, or renovation have you found most enjoyable?  
What project has been most frustrating?

**2.** Do you ever feel a tension between wanting to serve God's priorities as well as your own?  
How do you resolve the tension?

**3.** Watch The Bible Project video on Haggai (5:36)  
<http://mytmb.me/haggaitbp>

### Read Haggai 1:1 - 15 & Ezra 1:1 - 7

*The events of Haggai unfold during the second year of King Darius' reign (1:1), the same time period in which the early chapters of Zechariah, and part of Ezra take place (Zechariah 1:1, 7 & Ezra. 4:24 - 6:15). This is the time in which the exiles who returned from Babylon began to rebuild the temple but stopped in the face of opposition.*

**4.** What has happened such that the people of Judah are in their current situation?  
*See Deuteronomy 28:15 - 68*

**5.** What is the problem that Haggai is speaking against?

**6.** Of what kind of attitudes and priorities are these problems symptomatic?

**7.** According to God, the people of Judah “expected much” (v 9) on their return from Exile. Why did they have such high expectations?

**8.** Why was rebuilding the temple so important?

**9.** What do we learn from the fact that it's God who initiates the rebuilding, not the people?

**10.** Verses 9 – 11 picture God's judgment on the land of Judah in physical and material ways. In what ways do you see God's judgement being expressed today?

**11.** How could you ask God to be at work in our church and community in the light of Haggai 1?

**12.** Where are danger points for us, where we need to “give careful thought” (v 7) to our ways, in order to make sure we have not abandoned God’s priorities for our own?

**13.** How do we experience God’s blessing and presence today?

**14.** God instructed the people of Judah to build the temple (v 8). What might be a parallel priority of God for his people today since we don’t have a temple building?

**15.** In what areas do you find it hardest to align your priorities with God’s?

## Study 2

## Haggai 2:1 - 23

1. Have you ever had your expectations crushed?  
How did you feel?
2. What made you the dirtiest you have ever been or felt?  
How did you get yourself clean?
3. How do you think Christians tend to think about  
“defilement”?

### Read Haggai 2:1 - 23

4. Why does the temple being built “seem to you like  
nothing” (v3)?  
*See Ezra 3:10 - 13*
5. What does God promise about the new temple in verses 1  
– 9?
6. How is the future “house” going to be different to the  
former?



**7.** Why does God repeatedly remind the people of his presence with them?

**8.** How is the way God acts in the New Testament a house of greater glory even than the old temple?

**9.** The writer to the Hebrews quotes Haggai 2:6, looking forward to another time when there will be a cataclysmic revelation from God in the pattern of Mount Sinai. Where do we see this revelation unfolding?

**10.** What is the point of Haggai's illustration about consecrated meat in verses 10 - 14?

**11.** How should Christians today apply this lesson about defilement?

**12.** God says that he acted in judgment in the hope that Judah would turn to him. How does God act to get our attention today?

**13.** What do the closing verses tell us about God's sovereign rule over the world?

**14.** How are you emboldened or encouraged by God's presence with you today?

**15.** How can these last verses of Haggai be an encouragement to Christians today?





# **TRINITY MOUNT BARKER**

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