

HEROES

HERITAGE NAZARENE

8

HAGGAI

ICE BREAKER:

- Who is the busiest person you know?
- What kind of things are they busy with?
- Can we get too busy?
- What happens to us when we become too busy?

NOTE: Haggai was a prophet of the Lord 25 centuries ago. 588 B.C. – Armies at Babylon destroyed the temple in Jerusalem. But, in 538 B.C., King Cyrus told the Jews they could return home and rebuild the temple. They go back, but they lose focus on what they were supposed to be doing.

READ HAGGAI 1:1-4

- Read verse 1 - What was a prophet's job?
- Read verse 2 - God speaks to Haggai...
What were the people saying?
What were they supposed to be doing?

NOTE: They were procrastinating – putting off what God wanted them to do.

- Be transparent with the group about a time you procrastinated. What were the results of it?

READ VERSE 4

NOTE: God's not upset with them for building houses; they needed to live somewhere. But He is upset that they built "paneled houses". Paneling then meant they were building super nice homes. These were expensive homes. All the while, God's temple lay in ruins! They got sidetracked!

- Share a time when you got sidetracked and your focus was altered to something else.
- Is it easy to lose focus? Can we be focused on what God wants one moment and then on what we want the next moment?

READ VERSES 5 & 6

NOTE: "Give careful thought to your ways" or just think about what you are doing!

- What is God saying about their priorities?
- Ever feel like God was saying to you,
"Hey, just think about what you are doing"?

NOTE: Messed up priorities breed discontentment.

- Do verses 5 & 6 speak to this?

READ VERSE 7

NOTE: Again, God is saying, "Think about what you are doing! Go build the house (temple)."

READ VERSE 9

NOTE: God is about to reveal the heart of the Israelites' problem. "Each of you is **BUSY** with his own house." It was busyness that was destroying their relationship with God.

- Are we too busy to **CONNECT** with God?
- Are we too busy to **LISTEN** to God?
- Are we too busy to **OBEY** God?

CONNECT
LISTEN
OBEY

READ VERSES 10 & 11

- How did God deal with busy-ness?
- How did He free up time for them?

(HINT: Has to do with drought).

APPLICATION:

Think about what you are doing...

- ⇒ Are your priorities changing?
- ⇒ Are you too busy?
- ⇒ Are you In spiritual drought?

Be transparent and pray for one another.

is your
BUSYNESS
hurting God's
plan for your life?



"In general we are very busy people. We have many meetings to attend, many visits to make, many services to lead. Our calendars are filled with appointments, our days and weeks filled with engagements, and our years filled with plans and projects. There is seldom a period in which we do not know what to do, and we move through life in such a distracted way that we do not even take the time and rest to wonder if any of the things we think, say, or do are worth thinking, saying, or doing." ~ Henri Nouwen