

## Liberty Baptist Church Scripture Reflections

# The New Normal

Life Group Discussion  
August 10, 2020

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This Discussion Guide is prepared to help believers apply the truths of Scripture to life. As you prepare, make sure you have read the Scripture text and listened to the Sermon. If you missed the Sermon, go to [www.experienceliberty.org](http://www.experienceliberty.org) and select the Sermon title listed above.

Sermon Bible Verses: **Haggai 1**

Normal. Is there such a thing? Often, we define normal as the way of life we are used to living. Normal is based on expectation. In today's COVID world though our understanding of normal has been changed. Face masks, social distancing and following Walmart directional arrows have become the new normal. The issue then is not what is the current normal, but how we define normality. What if we defined normal as the change necessary to grow us in Christ? Change is the only thing that doesn't change because it's always changing! Change is good. What would our world look like if nothing ever changed? Life would be stagnant, boring and unchallenging! Embrace the new normal in the light of the Gospel. If you had been a Galilean in the 1<sup>st</sup> century, and had met Jesus but never accepted the new normal, where would you be now? If you are not willing to change...to accept the new normal, then you will miss out on the opportunity change presents. Don't miss out.

- **Do you think our new normal is a bad thing or is it a good thing?**
- **How has your way of life been affected by the new normal?**
- **How has the Gospel been affected by the new normal?**
- **What opportunities have been presented to you to share the Gospel during this time?**

*1 In the second year of King Darius, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, saying, 2 "Thus speaks the LORD of hosts, saying: 'This people says, "The time has not come, the time that the LORD's house should be built." ' " 3 Then the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying, 4 "Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins?" 5 Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: "Consider your ways!*

Understand in the context of Israel's return to Jerusalem from its Babylonian captivity, the task to rebuild the temple of God had not been undertaken. God sends the prophet Haggai to remind Israel of its responsibility to God.

*2 "Thus speaks the LORD of hosts, saying: 'This people says, "The time has not come, the time that the LORD's house should be built."*

- **How do you feel about evangelism in the COVID pandemic? Are the times not conducive to evangelism?**
- **What would keep you from church during this new normal? Why?**
- **In what life situations have you said, “It’s not the right time” or something similar, knowing the time is ripe for taking action?**
- **Do believers tend to be procrastinators with the Gospel? What are we waiting for?**

\*\*\*\* **When is the right time to serve the kingdom of God?**

*”3 Then the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying, 4 “Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins?”*

- **Between going to Walmart, Waffle House and church during the COVID CRISIS, which carries more weight in your belief system? Which one have you attended the most, without fearing COVID?**
- **When Israel was in bondage in Egypt, when the Israelites faced the red sea, when Noah saw it raining, where was God? Where is He now?**
- **How do you prioritize your life points? What comes first and what comes last?**

*13 Then Haggai, the LORD’s messenger, spoke the LORD’s message to the people, saying, “I am with you, says the LORD.”*

- **IF God is with you, why do we fear so many things?**
- **What Bible examples do we have to assure of God’s presence in times of trouble?**

**THINK ABOUT THIS:**

- (1) How are you spending your time? These people had plenty of time for themselves, but they didn’t have time for God. Rearrange your schedule!
- (2) How are you spending your money, which is really God’s money? These folks claimed that they had to get their own houses built first, and then they could build God’s house. That was backwards. God says that we are to give Him the first fruits, off the top. We are to give Him the best. We are managers of all that He has given us, to invest it profitably for His kingdom.
- (3) What are your goals? What is it that you’re aiming at in life? If you live to an old age, what do you want to look back on as far as accomplishments?
- (4) What do you think about the most? What secretly occupies your thought life? Do you dream of getting rich, of achieving fame, of some hobby or leisure pursuit, or do you think about the Lord and how He wants you to spend your life?
- (5) Who are your heroes or models? Whom do you most admire? Whom would you like to be like? Why? (6) Who are your friends? Whom do you like to spend time with? Why do you like to be with them?