

Group Discussion Questions

Building a Holy Temple in the Lord

Use this sheet for your group discussion time, after completing the video lesson materials. Be sure to print, keep a copy, and review the written lesson materials as well. First pray. Then discuss. Through this discussion time, aim to develop solid ideas and plans for implementing lesson truths and ideas learned. Discussion time is geared for about 30-minutes (but feel free to expand if needed or desired).

Appoint a group moderator/facilitator to help keep discussion focused, engaging for all, on-point, and on time.

Tips: Allotting 7-8 minutes per main question with sub-questions allows completion in 30-min. Assigning a reader for each key passage, to look it up and be ready (while discussing Q1), will permit smooth transitions and save time. It should only take a minute, or two to read each particular passage, in its time.

1) What are your observations about building projects?

- a. How do you prioritize them and make time for them?
- b. How do slow, set-back, and inefficient projects/progress affect people? Who gets affected the most? (builder, owner or commissioner of project, people living with results of the project or depending on its completion, or an onlooking community)
- c. How can you help them to go quicker and smoother?
- d. *Do all these questions apply in the spiritual sense with God's "building project?" How?*

2) What lessons do you see applying to us, in our own lives from the passage in Haggai 1:1-10 (esp. vs. 2-4, 9)?

- a. What *practical steps* in your life do you believe should be taken to avoid living a self-centered personal-empire-building life rather than a God-centered one?
- b. Is time and life more efficient when living a God-centered life? Why or why not?

3) The Devil is an expert at providing "distractions" to pull us off of God's building project and make the work languish (e.g. Neh. 6:1-4, 5-9; Mark 4:19; Deut. 6:10-13). Discuss the following:

- a. Do you feel like he's done this in our lives and in our church? If so, in what ways?
- b. What kinds of things do you feel are the biggest current distractions to stop God's building? How can we possibly recognize the distractions and avoid them?
- c. Do you believe that even "good" things (not wrong of themselves) can become distractions and derail us from the most important object of our time – God's work?

4) How does the following parable, referenced in our talk, put things into perspective for all believers (leaders and workers alike in God's vineyard)? (Matthew 24:44-51)

- a. What does it mean to "be ready"? Does this affect how we live each day?
- b. How can we be considered a "faithful and wise" servant, by Jesus?
- c. What kind of life are we tempted to live if we think our lord "delays" His coming (v.48)? Will God's work (in us and others) weigh as heavily in our minds if we lack Jesus' focus? How must we devote our time?
- d. What will be the results or consequences to the choices we make in this life here now? (Especially in this regard)

Homework: Pray and think of ways your life can be more devoted to God and His service.