

WEEK 4 GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Comprehension:

- What happened in our reading? Summarize.

Lesson Follow Up:

- How did it impact you to hear God's Word read aloud? How was it different than reading it to yourself?"

Distractions/Idols:

- What were the Israelites doing instead of building the temple? In what ways to personal comforts sometimes get in the way of God's work?
- Are there any distractions or idols keeping you from God's work for your life?

Encouragement in Fear and Weakness:

- In Ezra it says that the people prospered under the prophets Haggai and Zechariah. How did God use Zechariah and Haggai to refocus the Israelites and their leaders (Joshua and Zerubbabel)?
- Haggai relayed a message from God in Haggai 2:4 "...Be strong, all you people of the land, declares the Lord. Work, for I am with you, declares the Lord of hosts, according to the covenant that I made with you when you came out of Egypt. My Spirit remains in your midst. Fear not."
- What is God calling you to be strong in? What work is He calling you to do?
- How does the knowledge that God is with you change your fear towards this work?
- Who has been an encouragement to you in this way?
- How can you be an encouragement to others in this way? Are there any leaders in your life who may need encouragement like Jeshua and Zerubbabel?

Plumb Line

- Does anyone know what a plumb line is? What do you think is its symbolic value in Zechariah?
- Plumb Line Definition according to Bible Gateway "A Cord weighted with lead that is used in building to check that vertical structures are true. It is used symbolically to refer to the divine standard against which God, the builder of his people tests and judges them. It also symbolizes the standards by which God will rebuild his people."
- The Israelites and we ourselves are built according to God's plumbline. Psalm 89:14 "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you?"
- How is God rebuilding you according to his plumbline?

Small Beginnings

- In Zechariah 4:9-10, he encourages Zerubbabel that he will see the finishing of the temple, and that "whoever has despised the day of small beginnings should rejoice, and shall see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel." It has been a few weeks since we talked about what God is beginning in you.
- How has God worked in these beginnings over the past few weeks?

Check In

- How did the homework go?