

Haggai 2:1–9

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

Haggai 2:5

MEMORY VERSE

“ ‘This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear.’ ” **Haggai 2:5**

As you seek to lead your family closer to the Lord, hundreds of things will fight for your attention. You have a stressful job, your responsibilities at church are time-consuming, and you volunteer yourself relentlessly. Truthfully, these things are all secondary compared to your priorities to love the Lord wholeheartedly and point your family toward Christ.

Read Haggai 2:1–9. Haggai prophesied to Israel during a time of apathy. They had begun to rebuild the Temple, but soon got sidetracked on less important things. They forgot the covenant. God, through Haggai, commanded them to finish the Temple and seek His presence, which is what the Temple represented.

The Book of Haggai concludes with a beautiful picture of the ultimate Temple, Jesus Christ, which would be torn down and rebuilt in three days (John 2:19). He would be the ultimate expression of God’s presence among His people and the ultimate expression of restoration and peace.

Jesus’ restoration brings peace and contentment. God seeks to restore you and your family into right relationships with Him every single day. Pray that He would help you identify ways to continually rebuild His temple, His presence among you, daily. Trust that God will continue to reveal Himself to you and your children.

FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

Connect . . .

First, family members have a two-minute competition to see who can think of the most words that have more than one meaning (like the word *bat*, which can refer to a flying mammal or a wooden stick used in baseball). Next, discuss: **Many words have more than one meaning. One is the word *temple*. What are the different meanings of temple?** (Possible answers: *the building; Jesus Christ’s body; our bodies*)

Explore . . .

First, a family member reads Haggai 2:1–9. Then discuss: **How do you think the Israelites who had seen the former Temple’s glory felt when they saw the ruins of the partially built replacement?** (*They were probably discouraged, saddened, or even remorseful of their sins.*) **What did the Lord say through Haggai in verses four and five?** (*He encouraged the people to be strong and brave. He let them know He was still with them.*)

Finally, a family member reads: **Although the Israelites had turned away from God and experienced His judgment, God still reassured them of His presence and promised them new life. In verses six through nine, God provided a glimpse of the hope found in the promise of the Messiah.**

Transform . . .

Discuss: **How should it change our lives and attitudes to know that God lives within us? How does that affect the way we treat our bodies, our “temples”?**

Pray that each member of your family would allow God control over his or her “temple,” and pray that God would “clean house.”