

CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA

– COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE –

“A Renewed Passion for God’s Glory” – Haggai 1:1-15

FELLOWSHIP

The Glory of God is a topic that moves finite humans into an area that we really can’t totally comprehend. Trying to give worship, praise, attention, and obedience to the God of the universe moves one into a realm that goes beyond the senses and intellect. Yet throughout the Bible, the Glory of God is given as our life’s purpose. Isaiah records God’s reasoning for why we exist, *“Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth— everyone who is called by my name, whom I have created for My glory.”* The Bible is full of stories that after everything was said and done, the outcome reveals that it was ultimately to glorify God. Jesus continues this theme in his own life’s purpose when he said, *“The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood.”* Or, *“Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”* (Jn 7:18; 14:13) Referring to our life’s purpose, Jesus said, *“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”* (Mt 5:16) Paul weighs in on this in his letter to the Corinthians, *“For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s,”* and *“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”* Amazing how the tangibles of our daily routine testify to the magnificence of God. Unfortunately, the routine itself can become the agent that numbs one to their calling and purpose. Thank goodness for the prophet of God. They come with words of restoration and renewal, that if listened to, rekindle our passion for God in everything.

PRAY, READ, DISCUSS

Following the exile of God’s people in Babylon, Israel had re-entered their homeland and begun the labors of getting back to normalcy. Most likely in late August, around 520 B.C., and a new moon, it would have been religious festival days in Jerusalem. How fitting that the prophetic voice finally re-enters the scene when the audience was primed. Read the whole chapter of Haggai 1, but paying special attention to vs. 7-8:

Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Consider your ways! Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified,” says the LORD.”

- The people had decided to rebuild, but what had they chosen to build first? Why might they have done this out of apparent necessity? What was the consequence of their decisions? Why would God withhold what was necessary for them to live?
- The book begins with the word of the Lord coming to Zerubbabel, the governor, and Joshua, the high priest. Why does God speak to the people through their leaders? (cf. James 3:1) What happened in verse twelve when these two men displayed good leadership? How does this contrast with the religious leaders of Jesus’ day? When has good or bad leadership affected you? What were some of the lessons you learned?
- When in crisis, often people say they feel God is distant, that he is not caring for them, or acting on their behalf. What ideas or principles from Haggai 1 could encourage someone who is seeking for answers to life’s problems? Compare Haggai 1:13 with Matt 28:20
- The obedience of the people and their leaders to the word of the Lord in verse twelve resulted in God doing a work in their lives in verse fourteen. How does the Holy Spirit play a role in keeping us passionate for God’s Glory in our lives? Read Jn 16:14 regarding the Holy Spirit ministry purpose. (cf. Acts 1:5, 8; Jn 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:17; Acts 2:33)

PRAY Revival in the church and spiritual awakenings in our lands happen when we individually are renewed in our delight and passion for God. How can we pray for each other, or what areas can we bring to God in order that we might stoke our personal passions for God’s Glory?

