



**Mustard Seed Children's Summary for 4 May 2008
Released on Wednesday, April 30, 2008**

"The People Came and Worked"

MEMORY VERSE:

"Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD" (Haggai 1:8).

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT: (Haggai 1:1-4, 7-10, 12-15)

1 In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month, came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet unto Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, saying,

2 Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD's house should be built.

3 Then came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying,

4 Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste?

7 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.

8 Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD.

9 Ye looked for much, and, lo it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house.

10 Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit.

12 Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him, and the people did fear before the LORD.

13 Then spake Haggai the LORD's messenger in the LORD's message unto the people, saying, I am with you, saith the LORD.

14 And the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of the LORD of hosts, their God,

15 In the four and twentieth day of the sixth month, in the second year of Darius the king.

OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that we should do God's work and put Him first.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

God's people were not putting Him first.

Haggai called the people to come and work on the temple.

God blesses those who put Him and His work first.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS:

For Telling How to Live, pick a project your class can do for the church or a needy person. Some suggestions include planting small pots with flowers for shut-ins, starting a food box for a needy family, or cleaning the church.

For Helping to Remember, you will need construction paper, crayons, craft sticks, glue, and safety scissors. You will also need a copy of the word search for each student.

LESSON BACKGROUND:

Time: 520 B.C. Place: Jerusalem

During Judah's captivity in Babylon, it was prophesied that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. For seventy years, the people would live in exile and serve the king of Babylon. After that time, God would deal with Babylon for her iniquity and allow His people to return to their homeland.

As God promised, He restored His people to their own land. Cyrus and the Persians conquered Babylon, and a decree was issued by Cyrus to allow the Jews to return to their homeland. The decree also allowed for the rebuilding of the temple (2 Chronicles 36:23; Ezra 1:2-4). The returning people were enthusiastic about working and rebuilding the temple, but opposition and apathy stopped the work (Ezra 4:1-5, 24). The people did not finish the temple and seemed content to let the temple stand incomplete.

In this week's lesson, no work on the temple had been done for approximately fifteen years. Then God raised up the Prophet Haggai with a challenge. Haggai called for the people to come and work on the temple, to realign their priorities, and to put God first.

TEACHER'S NOTES / TELLING THE LESSON:

Consider the following as you prepare your lesson for your students:

Who were the leaders of God's people after they returned from Babylon?

Judah's return from Babylon came in three stages. The first group returned under the leadership of Zerubbabel and Joshua. Zerubbabel became the governor. Joshua became their high priest. This established both the political and religious leadership and put everything in place to successfully reestablish the nation and its system of worship.

Describe the homes of God's people vs. the temple.

The people had built lovely paneled homes for themselves. Paneling was scarce and costly. Their homes were luxurious, but the temple was in ruins. The temple had been destroyed by the Babylonians many years before, and the great timbers of the temple had been burned. New wood was needed and the temple needed to be rebuilt. But the people were spending all their time and money on themselves and their own homes.

What was Haggai's message to the people?

God gave Haggai a message for the people and their leaders. God told Haggai that He did not accept the excuses the people were giving for not working on the temple. The people claimed that the time was not right. God told Haggai to ask the people if it was the right time for them to live in luxury.

Haggai told the people to think about what they were doing. They were to go to the mountains and bring back wood and finish the temple. If they did this, God would be honored and pleased.

What illustrations did Haggai use to show that the people of his time were not enjoying the blessings of God?

God told Haggai that because the people had not put Him first, He had not blessed them. God was withholding His blessings because of their misplaced priorities. They worked to accumulate food, drink, clothing, and income, but there was never enough. Their crops were small and the dew was withheld from them.

The people had looked for good harvests but had to deal with poor ones brought on by dry conditions. They continually looked for increased wealth, but did not experience the blessings of God. This was because God repeatedly blew away what they brought home. The idea here is of a wind that laid waste whatever they brought home and scattered it away from them, leaving them with little.

What was the response of the leaders and the people to Haggai's message?

God moved in the hearts of the people to accomplish His work. The Lord stirred up the spirit in Zerubbabel, Joshua and the remnant of the people. The people were excited and came and began the work on the house of the Lord.

The people obeyed the message that Haggai brought to them from the Lord. They came and worked. As soon as twenty-three days after Haggai delivered his message to the people, the work on the temple began again.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

Haggai's message moved on the people's heart and motivated them to restart the work of rebuilding the temple. The story of the rebuilding of the temple holds a personal lesson for us. God is not commanding us to build a temple, but He does command us to follow His Word. God is pleased when we put Him first and work for Him.

Do your priorities need to be rearranged? We can best judge where we put God on our "list" by where he figures in our finances and our schedules. It is easy to misalign priorities. God blesses those who put Him and His work first. As a class, complete the project (from the planning lesson aids section) that has been selected.

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

There is work for everyone in the church to do. Each student should print on the top of a sheet of construction paper "Do God's Work." Then make a broom by gluing a craft stick to the paper. To make bristles, fringe a piece of construction paper and glue it to the bottom of the craft stick. Draw a stick figure to hold the broom.

A word search with key words from the lesson is also included at the end of this lesson summary.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

"Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD" (Haggai 1:8).

This is a great verse for a church that is beginning a building program, but it is also a wonderful verse for anyone doing any kind of work for God. If we work hard, work according to His will, and work in His power, God will take pleasure in our work. God will be glorified.

ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:

Next week's lesson is "**Nehemiah Saw a Need**" and focuses on one of the leaders who emerged during the rebuilding of Jerusalem. Read Nehemiah 2:1-18.

Lesson Summarized by:

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WORD SEARCH - **The People Came and Worked** (Haggai 1:1-4, 7-10, 12-15)

Find each of the following words.

WASTE

FIRST

DEW

REMNANT

BUILD

MOUNTAIN

TIME

CONSIDER

HAGGAI

HOUSE

WOOD

GLORIFIED

PLEASURE

WORK

CIELED

FRUIT

E E R P U S F C N T W R G S R H C L O G N E E O
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SOLUTION TO WORD SEARCH- **The People Came and Worked** (Haggai 1:1-4, 7-10, 12-15)

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