



Haggai 2:10-19

A Note to the Parents/Teachers

Haggai challenged the discouraged people in Jerusalem to examine the way they were living and to set new priorities that would please God. They must remember that God was with them; He wants to bless them but He wants them to be holy.

Call to Worship

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come. You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will, they were created and have their being.” - Revelation 4:8,11

- **Big Idea:** Jesus makes us clean so we can experience God’s blessings.

Starter

Evidence of Grace

Ask kids to share ways they’ve seen God at work lately. Anything, big or small, which is good is from God. Take time to thank God together.

Discussion:

- When you are dirty, how do you get clean? How often do you take a bath or shower? Why is it important to be clean?

Sing Together

Story

During this time, the Israelites who were living in Jerusalem were still following the covenantal food, sacrifice, and cleanliness laws. All of these laws that God gave to his people were to set them apart from the other nations and to honor and keep holy that which God created and made. Because of sin, God had to make a way for his people not just to keep their physical bodies clean but also their hearts clean. So God set up a system of sacrificial laws in which the people had to follow strict rules on how to prepare themselves and the animal sacrifice in order to be made clean when they performed the sacrifice.

On December 18th, 520 BC, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Haggai again at a time when the people would have been hoping for the early rains. It was almost three months since they had begun to rebuild the temple. The LORD said: "Ask the priests for an answer. If a man is carrying consecrated (consecrated means the devoting or setting apart of anything to the worship or service of God) meat in his pocket or bag and that consecrated meat touches the bread, soup, wine, or anything else in the bag, does it make it holy?" The priests said, "no" and they were right. What God was reminding them of is that they don't become holy just by touching something holy.

The people may not be able to become holy just by touching something that had been consecrated to God, but the people could become unclean by touching something unclean. According to some of the laws the people could become unclean if they touched a dead body or other things that were deemed unclean.

People will not become holy simply by touching the temple bricks while they are rebuilding it. God wants people to have holy hearts. He wants his people to consecrate their hearts and lives to God. Separated from the other gods of the other nations in complete devotion in life, word, and deed to the one true God of the universe. There were ways that people could become clean. They had to make sacrifices on behalf of their sin. They needed to repent and turn their hearts back to the one true God. They will not be holy or set apart just by building a temple or having a temple. They don't have to wait to become clean before God by making sacrifices once the temple is done. God is more concerned about their hearts than the temple.

Haggai goes on to tell the people that God withheld rain, struck their crops with hail, and caused mildew to grow to ruin some of their wine and crops. God did all of this not just to punish the people, but he did it so the people would realize what they were putting their hope and trust in, repent from their idols, and turn back to God. God wants a people that is consecrated, or set apart to worship and serve God.

Jesus

Heb 10:10

"We have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

Heb 10:19-22

"Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

By Jesus' death on the cross, Jesus provided a way for us to be holy, consecrated, and set apart for worship and service to Jesus and His kingdom. God is not concerned with a temple, because Jesus tore down the veil between the Holy of Holies and now the very Spirit of God lives and dwells within those who have been set apart for Jesus and his kingdom.

[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- How do we become clean now that Jesus has died and was risen again on the 3rd day?
- Why did Jesus have to die on the cross?
- What are some ways that we can be obedient and live in God's kingdom here on earth now?
- Are there things that you might be finding satisfaction, happiness, or fulfillment in other than Jesus?
- How are you invited into this story?

Breakout Time

Pray:

God, I know that you are the one true living God who created all things. You created the earth and everything on the earth. You created me. Thank you for sending your Son Jesus so that I can be forgiven of worshiping other things. Forgive me for sometimes worshiping other things than you. I repent. Holy Spirit, please work in my heart to love God and love others in a way that points them to Jesus and your Kingdom. May our hearts be filled with love for you and for others in response to what you have done in and through your Son Jesus and the story you have invited us to now participate in. Help me to think of my community this week and how I can love them well so that they might know you more.

Craft:

The kids can color the picture below.

BLESS Activity

This week, ask your family how you can practice the Speak rhythm. Maybe as you go to school, go to the store with your parent, go to your sports game or after-school activity, or even in your own home and think about who you might be able to speak the good news that the kingdom of God has come to earth in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.



CREATE
in me a Pure
Heart, O
GOD
AND RENEW
a STEADFAST
SPIRIT WITHIN
ME." PSALM 51:10