

the story

Pastor
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GOD'S STORY IS OUR STORY

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“ In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah, the Lord moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing:

'This is what Cyrus king of Persia says:

'The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. Any of his people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the Lord, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with them. And in any locality where survivors may now be living, the people are to provide them with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with freewill offerings for the temple of God in Jerusalem.' ”

~ EZRA 1:1-4 (NIV)

God's _____ was their _____ .

“ When the seventh month came and the Israelites had settled in their towns, the people assembled together as one in Jerusalem. Then Joshua son of Jozadak and his fellow priests and Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and his associates began to build the altar of the God of Israel to sacrifice burnt offerings on it, in accordance with what is written in the Law of Moses the man of God. Despite their fear of the peoples around them, they built the altar on its foundation and sacrificed burnt offerings on it to the LORD, both the morning and evening sacrifices.”

~ EZRA 3:1-3 (NIV)

Put _____ things _____ .

God's _____ became their _____ .

“ Then the word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai: 'Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?'

Now this is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Give careful thought to your ways. You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.'

This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Give careful thought to your ways. Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored,' says the Lord. 'You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?' declares the Lord Almighty. 'Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house.' ”

~ HAGGAI 1:3-9 (NIV)

Nobody is _____ , it's just not _____ .

God's brings them _____ to His _____ .

“ Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the whole remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the Lord their God and the message of the prophet Haggai, because the Lord their God had sent him. And the people feared the Lord.

Then Haggai, the Lord's messenger, gave this message of the Lord to the people: 'I am with you,' declares the Lord. So the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people. They came and began to work on the house of the Lord Almighty, their God,"

~ HAGGAI 1:12-14 (NIV)

So WHAT?

Overcome _____ with _____ .

Practice living according to _____ , in _____ .

“ Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?” ~ 1 CORINTHIANS 3:16 (NIV)

Return to our _____ .

“ Therefore tell the people: This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Return to me,' declares the LORD Almighty, 'and I will return to you,' says the LORD Almighty. ”

~ ZECHARIAH 1:3 (NIV)

“ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” ~ MATTHEW 6:33 (NIV)

“ If we put first things first, we get the second things thrown in;
but if we put second things first, we lose both the first and second things.”

| C.S. LEWIS

Come _____ .

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

COMMUNITY GROUP VIDEOS *available on the APP* |    

- 1 - What activity or hobby were you passionate about but now you don't care about it as much? Why? What changed for you?
- 2 - King Cyrus not only let God's people return to Jerusalem, but he also gave them the resources to rebuild. Tell of a time that God was working in the background of your life to rebuild something broken?
- 3 - What do you think is the 'Big Thing' God wants to do in your life (or through you) right now?
- 4 - What are the little things that seem to get in the way of you focusing on that Big thing? How do you come back to what God has for you?
- 5 - Re-read Haggai 1:4-8. God sometimes allows difficulties and dry seasons in our lives to have us "Give careful thought to your ways." Have you ever had such a season? Describe it. What did you learn about God and yourself during that season?
- 6 - How are you going to renew your passion for God, and practice His presence in a new way this week?

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