













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- 2  Motivational posters
- 3  Demotivational posters
- 4  Demotivational posters
- 5  Demotivational posters
- 6  Review
 - Jews have spent 70 years in exile before being allowed to return to Jerusalem.
 - They come back to a destroyed city. The walls are rebuilt under the leadership of Nehemiah.
 - Ezra led them in laying the foundation for the Temple.
 - But then they got their priorities wrong.
- 7  Review (2)
 - The people focused on their own comforts rather than first finishing the house of God.
 - With selfish priorities came serious problems with supply, satisfaction, sight, and squabbling.
 - God raises up Haggai to tell them how to refocus their priorities and work begins again on the Temple.
- 8  Key lessons so far...
 - Selfish preoccupation and priorities lead to serious problems.
 - When our priorities are misplaced, life stops working.
 - When we realign our priorities with God's priorities, God's blessings start flowing back into our lives.
 - Start with prayer in order to gain strength in order to DO God's work.
- 9  Haggai 2:1-3a
 - *In the seventh month, in the one and twentieth day of the month, came the word of the LORD by the prophet Haggai, saying,*
 - *Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and to the residue of the people, saying,*
 - *Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory?*
- 10  Haggai 2:3b
 - *And how do ye see it now? Is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?*
 - *Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith the LORD; And be strong, O Joshua, son of Josedech, the high priest; And be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the LORD, and work: For I am with you, saith the LORD of hosts:*
- 11  Haggai 2:5-6
 - *According to the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt, So my spirit remaineth among you: fear ye not.*
 - *For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, And I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land;*
- 12  Haggai 2:7-9
 - *And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: And I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.*

- *The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts.*
- *The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: And in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.*

13  **COMPARISONS**

DISCOURAGE

14  **Comparisons discourage**

- Temples are different.
 - The date recorded by Haggai is significant.
 - The twenty-first day of the seventh month in Israel’s calendar translates to October 17, 520 B.C. on our calendar.
 - This was the last day of the week-long celebration of the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles.
 - On this day exactly 430 years earlier, Solomon dedicated the Temple.

15  **Comparisons discourage (2)**

- This Temple still under construction cannot compare to the first Temple.
- That first Temple larger and filled with riches.
- Times are different.
 - Under King Solomon, Israel’s borders extended further than at any other time.
 - People came from all over the world to see and hear of King Solomon’s wisdom and power.

16  **Comparisons discourage (3)**

- Read 1 Kings 4:20-34.
- In Haggai’s time, Israel is occupied territory. Even back in their homeland, they are servants to a Persian king.
- They lived in a struggling economy and their efforts seemed puny to the memories of the past.
- Note for parents: Avoid comparisons
- Note for husbands: Avoid comparisons
- Note for wives: Avoid comparisons

17  **CORRECTION IS
DIFFICULT**

18  **Correction is difficult**

- Realigning priorities is the right thing to do but the process is often painful.
 - Rebuilding a damaged marriage – often as soon as one partner starts making an effort, the other reacts (either feeling smothered or thinking the first partner is insincere).
 - A parent seeing a child struggle decides to work more on instilling spiritual values only to see the child initially rebel against the new emphasis.

19  **Correction is difficult (2)**

- A man becomes convicted about not tithing or sowing as he should. He purposes to give God the first part of His income. But then he is faced with difficulties:
 - Financial challenges require that we wait in faith on the faithful God to come through.
 - We have to further moderate our lifestyle and change our expectations.

20  **CURING DISCOURAGEMENT**

21  **Curing discouragement**


- Remember God’s promised presence.
 - Some 18 times in the Bible, God says, “I am with you.” Since God is already OMNIPRESENT, what does this mean?
 - It means He is our:
 - Advocate
 - Ally
 - Assurance

22  **Curing discouragement (2)**

- Remember God's promised power.
 - Haggai 2:5 – *“My spirit remaineth among you: fear ye not.”*
 - This is one of the rare mentions of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament.
 - God already mentioned His presence. He isn't being redundant here. He is saying that His Spirit will abide with them to empower and encourage them so that they need not fear or give into despair.

23  **A meditation moment...**

- Do you ever take a child into your arms to:
 - encourage them?
 - exhort them?
 - empower them?
- Don't you suppose God wants to do that for you?
 - God PERMANENTLY abides with Christians.
 - His Spirit longs to encourage us? Can you sit still long enough for Him to do that?

24  **Curing discouragement (3)**

- Remember God's prayer priority (Haggai 1:8).
 - Prayer is hard because it requires us to STOP and drop.
 - But we're programmed to rise and go-go-go all the time.
 - But it is only those who wait on the Lord who have their strength renewed and who rise up to do great things for God (Isaiah 40:31).

25  **Excessive activity**

- *“North Americans live in a culture consumed with a 'go-go-go' mentality. Many have their lives set on cruise control in the fast lane of life, entangled in a vortex of activity that eventually leads to weariness of body, mind, and spirit.*
- *Tragically, their lifestyle has infiltrated the church; multitudes of believers have allowed their busyness to lead to barrenness of soul. When this happens, the very first casualty will be their secret closet of prayer, followed by loss of vision and reduction to a level of living that is void of the fruit of the Spirit.”*

26  **Excessive activity (2)**

- *“As Christians living in an action-oriented society, we must ruthlessly re-evaluate our lifestyles. Throughout the Gospels we never see Jesus in a hurry—we never see Him running down the road, scurrying about, or being in haste. But purposeful? Absolutely. He knew what His mission was on planet earth.”*

27  **Curing discouragement (4)**






- Remember God's promised peace.
 - Haggai 2:9 -- *The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: **and in this place will I give peace**, saith the LORD of hosts.*
- Remember God's Prince of Peace.
 - The glory of the latter Temple would be greater than the former Temple, because the Messiah would come to the latter Temple.

28  **Curing discouragement (5)**

- *“Shalom is more than an ending of hostility. Shalom is restoration to completeness and wholeness, forgiveness of sins, healing of brokenness, and reconciliation with people. Again, this is a prediction that about five hundred years after Haggai said these words Jesus Christ himself would appear in this very temple. Jesus, through his life, death and resurrection, would bring God's *shalom* to all people who trust in him.” – Timothy Peck*
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29  **Moving beyond our limits**

- The people of Haggai's day despaired over the apparent futility of an:

- Impossible task
 - Under less-than-ideal circumstances
 - With little resources
 - That would only result in a building less glorious (so they thought) than they once had.
 - God, however, is not limited with what He can do with even our small efforts.
- 30  **David Brainerd**
- In the 1700s, he went as missionary to the American Indians.
 - These native Americans had already seen enough of American avarice and greed, so they refused to believe Brainerd's message of God's grace.
 - For 3-1/2 years, Brainerd saw NO results. He wrote: "My heart sunk. It seemed to me that I'd never have success among the Indians. My souls was weary of my life. I longed for death."
- 31  **Beyond Brainerd's boundaries**
- Then he saw about 150 native Americans come to faith in Christ.
 - He died a year later at age 29; his work seem to stop completely.
 - But someone published the journals David Brainerd kept during those times of discouragement.
- 32  **Beyond Brainerd (2)**
- Those journals fell into the hands of a guy named William Carey.
 - William Carey is widely known as the father of modern missions, because he ignited the modern missionary movement that continues to this day.
 - Carey took the Gospel to India.
- 33  **Beyond Brainerd (3)**
- Carey's efforts have literally resulted in millions of people coming to faith in Christ.
 - When someone asked William Carey what inspired him to devote his life to missions, he referred them to the journals of David Brainerd. God used David Brainerd beyond his own limitations.
- 34  **A truth to take home...**
- God enjoys using us beyond our limits because then He alone gets the glory.
 - Grace Baptist Church in Philadelphia
 - Hattie May Wiatt and her \$0.57
 - Temple University, Good Samaritan Hospital, and a worship center seating more than 3000