

The books of Haggai and Zechariah take place after God's people return home from exile. They are back in the land. The rebuilding has begun. Everything should be fixed... right?

Not exactly. The people had returned physically, but God wanted to restore them spiritually.

Haggai uses direct messages to challenge misplaced priorities. Zechariah uses symbolic visions to reveal God's bigger plan of restoration. Together, they show us that God was never only interested in rebuilding a temple—He wanted to restore His relationship with His people.

This week, we are going to practice **going beyond the surface**. As you read, ask:

- What is God revealing about people's hearts?
- What needs to be rebuilt or restored?
- What does this image or message reveal about God?
- How does this point forward to Jesus?

Grab your notebook and Bible, and let's get started.

Parents: Haggai and Zechariah remind us that God does not need anything from us, but He lovingly invites us to know Him and join Him in what He is doing. This week's Parent Prompt will help you talk with your kids and students about loving God first, remembering His faithfulness, and partnering with Him to share His love and goodness with others. [Parent Prompt](#)

Week 28 Memory Verse | Zechariah 1:3

Monday, July 13

Read: Haggai 1:1–6

Reflect: When Haggai begins, God's people are finally back home.

After years in exile, they returned to Jerusalem and began rebuilding. But eventually the work stopped. They had homes to repair. Families to care for. Fields to work. Life got busy.

The people said: "The time has not yet come to rebuild the Lord's house." At first, that probably sounded reasonable. But Haggai exposes something deeper.

The problem was not that they cared about their homes. The problem was that they had rebuilt their lives while leaving God pushed to the side.

One of the things prophets do is help us see beneath the surface. Haggai invites the people to "give careful thought" to their ways. In other words: Pay attention. Look honestly.

What is your life actually centered around? Because our priorities are not revealed by what we intend to do someday. They are revealed by what we are building right now.

Act: Write down where your time, energy, attention, and resources have gone over the past week.

Then ask: What does this reveal about what I am focused on building with my life?

Pray: God, help me honestly consider my ways. Show me where my priorities have drifted and help me build a life centered around You. Amen.

Tuesday, July 14

Read: Haggai 1:7–15

Reflect: Haggai's message is challenging. But don't miss God's heart. God confronts His people because He loves them. He does not want them to settle for lives that look full but feel empty.

Thankfully, the people respond by obeying God's voice. Then God gives them the message they most need to hear: "I am with you."

God's desire has always been His presence with His people. This is important to remember when reading the prophets. God's correction is not rejection. His correction is an invitation to return to Him.

God does not expose what is broken so He can create distance. He exposes what is broken so He can restore.

Act: Ask, "Where does my life look busy or successful but feel spiritually empty? "

Write, "God, I want to invite You back into..."

Pray: Father, thank You that You correct because You love. Help me respond with humility and experience the joy of walking closely with You. Amen.

Wednesday, July 15

Read: Haggai 2:1-9

Reflect: The rebuilt temple did not look very impressive. Some people remembered the old temple and felt disappointed. This one seemed smaller, less significant.

They were measuring the work by what they could see, but God saw a bigger story.

The prophets often help us lift our eyes beyond the present moment to see God's greater purposes.

What looked small was part of something much larger. Eventually, God's presence would come—not just into a rebuilt temple, but through Jesus Himself.

Sometimes we underestimate what God is doing because it starts small. But small does not mean insignificant. Don't forget that.

Act: What small act of faithfulness feels insignificant right now? Write one way God may be inviting you to keep going.

Pray: Lord, help me stay faithful even when progress feels small. Teach me to trust what You are building beyond what I can see. Amen.

Thursday, July 16

Read: Zechariah 3:1–10

Reflect: Zechariah feels very different from Haggai. Instead of straightforward messages, Zechariah is filled with visions of images, symbols, and pictures.

Remember, when you read prophetic visions, don't get stuck trying to decode every detail first. Begin by asking: What is the big picture God is showing?

In this vision, Joshua the high priest stands wearing filthy clothes. The image is clear. God's people don't only need a rebuilt temple. They need to be made clean.

Then God does something incredible. He removes the filthy clothes and gives the high priest clean ones.

God does not tell broken people to clean themselves up, He makes them clean. That is the story of grace.

Act: What is one area where you need God's restoring grace to clean you?

Pray: Jesus, thank You that You do more than improve me—you restore me. Thank You for taking away my sin and making me new. Amen.

Friday, July 17

Read: Zechariah 4:1–10

Reflect: Zechariah receives another strange vision here. A lampstand, olive trees, and oil flowing.

It may seem confusing at first, but the message becomes clear: “Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit.” God’s work has always depended on God’s power.

The people rebuilding Jerusalem probably felt overwhelmed. The task was too big, and the resources seemed too small. But God reminds them that His Spirit accomplishes what human strength cannot.

This is another key to reading prophetic visions: let the images reinforce the truth that’s being communicated.

The symbols are meant to help us see and remember what we might otherwise forget.

Today, be reminded that God is working. That’s more than enough.

Act: Write, “I have been relying on my own strength in...”

Then pray, “Holy Spirit, help me depend on You.”

Pray: God, remind me that Your work is accomplished through Your power. Teach me to rely on Your Spirit instead of my own strength. Amen.

Saturday, July 18 – Sunday, July 19

Read: Zechariah 14:20–21; Colossians 3:17

Reflect: Zechariah ends with a surprising image. Ordinary things are marked: “Holy to the Lord.”

In Israel, that phrase belonged in sacred spaces and on sacred objects. But Zechariah sees a future where that changes dramatically.

Even everyday things belong to God. This points us toward the life Jesus invites us into today.

Following Jesus is not about giving God a few more parts of our lives. It is surrendering the whole thing.

God is not asking for the “religious” part of you. He wants all of you. Because when a life belongs to Him, ordinary things become sacred. And an ordinary life becomes holy to the Lord.

Act:

Make a list of ordinary parts of your life:

- Work
- Home
- School
- Relationships
- Hobbies
- Time

Pick one and ask:

- What would it look like for this to be “Holy to the Lord”?

Review or memorize Zechariah 1:3.

Pray: Father, thank You that every part of my life matters to You. Help me stop separating my life into what belongs to You and what belongs to me. I surrender all of it to You. Amen.