



Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

USE THIS GUIDE TO PREPARE FOR THE DISCUSSIONS IN COMMUNITY GROUP.

Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

Message Summary

In Haggai 1:1-11, God delivered a pretty strong word to his people about why they were struggling to get the most out of their resources. In so many words, he told them that until they got their priorities straight, they were going to continue to run out of money. Our Big Idea said it like this: until God's first things won't last. As the people of God found out in Haggai, when they repented and put the kingdom first, God fixed their leaky containers and they found themselves carrying God's glory, blessing, and authority to the nations!

Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- Paul gave some examples during the message of things that have to go in order. What are some other examples of things that have to come first before other things can happen?
- What are some things that you struggle to keep in order?
- Why do people struggle with priorities? What do you do to keep your priorities straight?
- Read the following scriptures and discuss the first things they address: Exodus 20:3; Matt. 6:33; Acts 1:8; 3 John 1:2; 1 Timothy 3:5; Luke 12:34; John 14:15
- Read Haggai 1:6. Do you feel the struggle in this verse? The futility and hopelessness? Their pockets had sprung a leak! If your pipes sprung a leak, what is the first thing you would do: fix the leak or turn off the water? Turning off the water first minimizes the damage caused by the leak. How does that change the way you read Haggai 1:7-11? Is it possible that God was "turning off the water" (blessings) in order to allow his people to address the leaks?
- What misplaced priorities have caused leaks in your life? What steps will you take to fix them?