



Devotion Guidelines:

1. Keep it short and interactive
2. Read the Scripture passage together with each person reading a verse
3. Ask questions about each verse
4. Ask each child how they will apply what they have learned from the verses. (Even your young children) You, as a parent, also share what you will apply. Remember that Bible study is for application and transformation not just for information.)
5. Pray together as a family (You and your children can take turns praying)
  - For each other's requests
  - To ask for God's help to apply what you have learned

**Read Together:**

**Haggai:1:1-15** *"In the second year of Darius the king, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the Lord came by the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, saying,<sup>2</sup> "Thus says the Lord of hosts, 'This people says, "The time has not come, even the time for the house of the Lord to be rebuilt."'"<sup>3</sup> Then the word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet, saying, <sup>4</sup> "Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses while this house lies desolate?"<sup>5</sup> Now therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts, "Consider your ways!<sup>6</sup> You have sown much, but harvest little; you eat, but there is not enough to be satisfied; you drink, but there is not enough to become drunk; you put on clothing, but no one is warm enough; and he who earns, earns wages to put into a purse with holes."*

*<sup>7</sup> Thus says the Lord of hosts, "Consider your ways!<sup>8</sup> Go up to the mountains, bring wood and rebuild the temple, that I may be pleased with it and be glorified," says the Lord.<sup>9</sup> "You look for much, but behold, it comes to little; when you bring it home, I blow it away. Why?" declares the Lord of hosts, "Because of My house which lies desolate, while each of you runs to his own house."<sup>10</sup> Therefore, because of you the sky has withheld its dew and the earth has withheld its produce. <sup>11</sup> I called for a drought on the land, on the mountains, on the grain, on the new wine, on the oil, on what the ground produces, on men, on cattle, and on all the labor of your hands."*

*<sup>12</sup> Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the Lord their God and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the Lord their God had sent him. And the people showed reverence for the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Then Haggai, the messenger of the Lord, spoke by the commission of the Lord to the people saying, "'I am with you,' declares the Lord."<sup>14</sup> So the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and worked on the house of the Lord of hosts, their God, <sup>15</sup> on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month in the second year of Darius the king."*

**Talk Together:**

1. In Haggai 1:1-4, what was the response of the people about the task of rebuilding the temple? What were they prioritizing? How did that affect the Israelites?
2. In verses 5 and 7, what did God repeatedly tell the Israelites? What does that mean?
3. In verse 12 to 15, what was the response of the people?

**Conviction:**

My priorities in life should reflect the things that God wants me to do based on His word and commandments. As I pursue these things, I will look to Him as the source of my joy and fulfillment, so I will not get discouraged.

**Application:**

As I consider my life now, am I prioritizing the things which God asked me to do? If not, what are the steps that I need to take for me to be able put first what God asks me to do?

**Pray Together:**

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your promise that when You give us a task, You will be with us. Teach us the things that are most important to you so we can learn how to prioritize and put You first. In Jesus Name we pray, Amen.