GENESIS TO REVELATION | BIBLE ACCOUNT AND LESSON

Making Time to Build Together

Haggai 1:1-15



YOUR BIBLE READING

Faithful priorities give important shared responsibilities practical attention.

Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

The Shared Work Left Waiting

Haggai 1:1-15



Haggai brought God's message to Zerubbabel, the governor of Judah, and Joshua, the high priest. The chapter places it during King Darius' reign. The people were saying that the time had not yet come to rebuild the Lord's house, the temple. Yet they were living in their own paneled houses while that shared place remained in ruins. The message asked them to examine the difference between their private attention and the common work they kept postponing.

Through Haggai, God called them to consider their ways. They had planted much and brought in little. Food, drink, clothing, and wages seemed unable to meet their needs. One striking picture compares earnings with money placed in a bag full of holes. The effort was real, yet its results did not satisfy. These words describe a particular community's situation and call it to reflect on the direction in which its energy had been going.

The instruction was practical: go to the hills, bring wood, and build the house. God would take pleasure in it and be honored. The people were not asked only to admire a future temple from a distance. They were given work involving materials, movement, and cooperation. The message connected worship with responsibility. What they had kept calling later was now being placed before them as a task that needed their willing attention.

Haggai also explained the shortage as God's particular judgment in this situation. Drought had affected the land, crops, livestock, and labor while the temple was neglected. This explanation belongs to the prophet's message to that community. It is not a rule for diagnosing every person's poverty today. The chapter's question is concrete: why had people found time for their own homes while continually delaying the shared work through which they were being called to honor God?

Remember: A shared task begins to change when we give it willing attention.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

Leaders and People Begin Together

Haggai 1:1-15



Zerubbabel and Joshua listened to the message, and the remnant of the people listened with them. They obeyed the voice of the Lord their God through Haggai. The chapter describes reverence for God as part of that response. The leaders were not told to send everyone else while staying above the work. Their names stand alongside the people's. A shared responsibility required a shared answer, beginning with hearing the message and taking it seriously.

Haggai then brought a word of encouragement: God was with them. The message was brief, but it mattered after the difficult correction. The people were not simply left with a list of failures and no hope of beginning again. God's presence belonged beside the task. Their response would involve real effort, but they were being called into that effort with encouragement rather than told that everything depended on their own importance or impressive ability.

The Lord stirred the spirits of Zerubbabel, Joshua, and all the people. They came and worked on the house of their God. The account records the day when the work began within that same reign. A postponed responsibility had become a practical beginning. The chapter does not yet describe the completed temple; its ending rests on people coming together and doing the work. The change could be seen in what they now gave their time and hands to accomplish.

Haggai's lesson is therefore both a correction and an account of response. The people considered their priorities, received a clear task, heard God's encouragement, and began together. Building required more than announcing that a building would be valuable. It required participation. The particular project belonged to their worship and history, but the movement from repeated delay toward shared action is easy to understand. A community's priorities become visible when its important common work is actually given attention.

Pause and think: What manageable first step could help your group begin an important task that keeps being postponed?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

Which Important Task Keeps Waiting?



Think of a shared responsibility that sometimes gets postponed: tidying a common area, preparing something for a guest, or helping complete a group project. These are examples for us today, not tasks named by Haggai. Ask why the work keeps waiting and what manageable first step would help. A trusted adult can guide the plan so responsibilities are suitable and no one person carries an unfair share.

The temple in this account was a particular project with a prophetic call. A child should not hear that every church building request must take priority over food, safety, rest, or family needs. Nor does hardship prove that someone neglected worship. Haggai names a specific reason in a specific setting. We learn about thoughtful priorities without using the chapter to blame people facing poverty or illness.

Notice the encouragement after the correction. People often work better when they understand both why a task matters and that they have support. You can help a group by listening, accepting an appropriate part, and beginning it. Small, steady work is useful. A plan becomes real through people who give the task a fair place in their shared day.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

Haggai called the community to reconsider its priorities and begin its shared work with God’s encouragement.

What manageable first step could help your group begin an important task that keeps being postponed?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. What work had the people kept postponing?

2. Who responded and began working?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ Begin the work together.
- ☐ Consider the neglected shared responsibility.
- ☐ Hear a practical call and God’s encouragement.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw a group plan with different safe, age-appropriate jobs contributing to one shared task.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

A shared task begins to change when we give it willing attention.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: Haggai 1:5,8,12-14

A thoughtful conversation

This chapter gives a particular prophetic explanation for one community's hardship and neglected temple. Do not generalize it into blaming poverty on insufficient worship or donations. Emphasize shared, age-appropriate responsibilities and encouragement. Children's food, health, schooling, rest, and safety should never be sacrificed to a building project or adult fundraising pressure.

Activity answers

1. Rebuilding the Lord's house, the temple.
2. Zerubbabel, Joshua, and the people together, encouraged by God's promise of presence.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 3, 1, 2. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

God, help us choose wise priorities and do our appropriate part with others. Amen.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on Haggai 1:1-15. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration: original symbolic vector artwork by DigiPick.store; a learning aid, not an additional Bible event.
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