**Consider Your Ways Study Guide and Small Group Discussion Questions**

The Israelites’ desire to rebuild the temple was faced by people who questioned their motives, and then, eventually threatened their lives and families. Sadly, the Israelites gave in to their fears and left the temple as it was for almost a decade.

Have there been times when your Christian faith was questioned or challenged by others? How did this make you feel? How did you respond?

How do we stand our ground and remain faithful during these times, and at the same time, help others understand that we believe and follow God?

The Prophet Haggai called out the Israelites’ self-devotion and wrong priorities. They neglected to honor God, and instead, chose to focus on their own needs.

**3 Then the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: 4 “Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?”**

God wants us to be excellent in everything we do, including our jobs. Is it wrong to be driven by work and desire to climb up the corporate ladder?

What are some signs that can help us determine whether we are focusing too much on our own needs?

The Israelites did not receive the fruits that they were expecting from their labor. Why? Because God was withholding His blessings and prosperity.

**9 “You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?” declares the LORD Almighty. “Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house.**

If God can choose to withhold prosperity from those who do not honor Him above everything else, why do you think there are people who seem to have everything in life, even if clearly, they are not living lives that are pleasing to God?

How can we be assured that what we have and what we are enjoying are blessings coming from the Lord and not from anywhere else?

The prophet Haggai spoke the truth to the Israelites, and to their credit, the Israelites admitted their mistakes and returned to God, focusing their labor on the rebuilding of the temple.

Let us take some time to reflect on God’s Word, confess as the Holy Spirit convicts you, and pray for one another in response to God’s message.