**Let Go of Past Glories Study Guide and Small Group Discussion Questions**

The Israelites finally restarted the rebuilding of the temple after ten long years but they were faced with another challenge. Unlike before wherein the hindrance was primarily due to an outside force (Samaritan opposition), this time, their own inner disappointments in the outcome was the main reason for their refusal to move forward.

**3‘Who of you is left who saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Does it not seem to you like nothing?**

Is it wrong to desire the good old days wherein what we experienced is something that we perceive to be better than the present?

What are some benefits of desiring the success of the past? What are some dangers of doing so?

How do we keep ourselves from minimizing or underestimating what we can do as compared to what others have done in the past or are currently doing?

God acknowledged the disappointment of the Israelites, but still commanded them to continue the work, assuring them of His presence and Spirit.

**4But now be strong, Zerubbabel,’ declares the Lord. ‘Be strong, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land,’ declares the Lord, ‘and work. For I am with you,’ declares the Lord Almighty. 5‘This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear.’**

What are some practical steps that we can take to help us move forward despite our disappointments?

How can the promise of God’s presence and Spirit help you in this?

The Israelites received promises of a glorious future. They experienced the fulfillment of the promises to some extent, but the complete fulfillment did not happen during their lifetime.

**7I will shake all nations… I will fill this house with glory… And in this place I will grant peace**

Why do you think God gives us promises even if there is a possibility of us not completely experiencing them in our lifetime? How do these promises help us as we strive to move forward in life?

How do we balance between looking back - remembering the success God allowed us to have - and looking forward - anticipating what He is about to do?