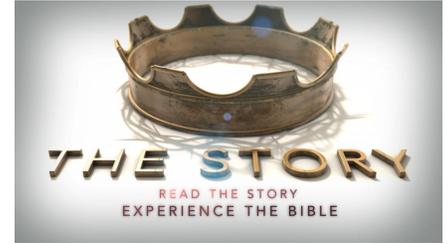


Royal Redeemer Going Deeper Guide

Based on the sermon for July 11, 2021:
Chapter 19: The Return Home



For personal reflection or for use as a devotion with CGS Community or family

- **CONNECT** *with each other*

1. Emerging from the pandemic has brought a number of joyful reunions. What joyful reunion have you experienced?

- **GROW** *in Christ*

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?” 5 Now this is what the Lord Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. 6 You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.” 7 This is what the Lord Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. 8 Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored,” says the Lord. 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.

Haggai 1:3-9

1. How do you see God using Persian King Cyrus to accomplish His will? Do you think God works in this same way today?
2. Look up Isa. 44:28 - 45:1. About how many years had passed between Isaiah’s prophecy and Cyrus’ edict? What does this teach you about God?
3. Why do you think many of the exiles chose to stay in Babylon instead of returning home to the Promised Land? How do you suppose God viewed that choice?
4. The Hebrew people returned home to rebuild the temple, the dwelling place of God on earth. Why was it important for them to do this?
5. In the video, Randy Frazee talked about how God’s big thing can become our little thing. Can you think of any examples of that?
6. What does God say is the result of focusing on ourselves and neglecting His call (Haggai 1:5-6)? What are some things we can do to keep God’s big thing first in our lives?

7. Why do you think the Samaritans wanted to help rebuild the temple? Do you think Zerubbabel and Joshua were right to reject the offer of help?
8. What sidetracked the temple building for 16 years (pp. 266-267)? What got them up and moving again? Are there times when you need a kick in the pants?
9. What does God promise the people if they will move forward with his work? (Haggai 2) Is this a promise for you today?
10. The end of Chapter 19 offers a glimpse of the political wrangling that took place behind the scenes. The governor of the region wanted the people to stop building the temple and accused them of having no permission to build it. After communication with the kings of Babylon, everything changed (Ezra 5-6, pp. 270-273) How did God provide for the temple?

- **SERVE** *others*

Think of a relationship that is problematic for you right now. What would be one short term solution? What might be a bigger, kingdom-centered outcome to pray for?

- **End with Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, or a short Blessing.**