**Building Strong Faith - Lessons from Haggai**

**Lesson 1: Be Intentional**

**Notes to accompany teaching** [**https://youtu.be/ed-wqEmembk**](https://youtu.be/ed-wqEmembk) **or as stand alone**

**Welcome** – What did you achieve in lockdown that you may well have not accomplished in ordinary times?

What are the main pressures on you at this time? Pray for one another

**Word -** Read Haggai chapter 1

This chapter calls us to ‘Give careful thoughts to our ways’. To be intentional and take responsibility for our faith.

What does it look like for you to ‘Be Intentional’ in your faith and take personal responsibility for it? How does it make you feel that you are responsible for your spiritual life?

Use the picture of the swimming pool below to discuss where you feel your Christian Life is at now and where you would like it to be. And then discuss how you can move.

Use the picture of the church below to discuss if the spiritual life of the church could be visualised as a construction project what would we look like at WBC?

What can we all do in this building project?

What unique gifts and skills do each of you have that can be put to use at this time to build our life together?

***Daniel 1-6***

What do you remember about Daniel?

In what ways do you think he was intentional in taking responsibility for his faith? What decisions did he make to be intentional in his faith? I believe there are 3 main ways Daniel was intentional.

1. Be Intentional – choose what parts of culture to avoid for you!

Daniel 1v8 & Proverbs 23v1

Did Daniel avoid all secular culture? What do you think governed his choices?

What choices have you made/are you making so not to be drawn away from faith?

How do we make these choices without becoming a legalistic or judgmental community?

1. Be intentional – Identify and do not bow down to idols

What other gods and philosophies that stand in opposition to God are we aware of in our culture?

What is the difference between an idol and culture traditions?

1. Be intentional – establish spiritual disciplines

What are the spiritual disciplines?

What is your experience of spiritual disciplines?

How can we encourage one another in spiritual disciplines?

**Worship**

Spend some time worshipping together. Explore how you as a small group can worship together. As at this time, these groups may be the easiest place to worship. Do you have musicians? How can you explore and exercise spiritual gifts? How can you use scripture to enable your worship? What about YouTube clips? How can you use your bodies in worship?

**Witness**

What non-Christian family and friends do you see the Lord softening and opening up to him in these strange times? Commit to pray for them.

**Being Intentional as a group**

How can you be intentional as a group?

Covenant to meet and share together at specific times regularly

Identify areas you want to discuss/grow in/explore/learn together.

I personally have noticed ‘assurance of salvation’ to be a big concern for many. If this is your group, how about next session showing Alpha session 3 ‘How can I be sure of my faith?’ – I can led you have the video on a memory stick.

Or are you struggling to avoid certain culture or idol temptations – you could use this time to do some ‘Freedom in Christ’ sessions together. Again talk to me if you want the resources.



