

Group Session 1

Rather than a formal leader guide in the back, we've provided what we hope is a simple and functional group plan on these pages with an additional word to leaders in the back. Each week will begin with a two-page group guide like this. I suggest you divide your group time into three parts: 1. Welcome and prayer; 2. Watch the video; 3. Group discussion of the personal study for the past week and the video you just watched.

The session guide for this first meeting is for us to get to know each other. Then we'll each go do our personal study. (It will be fun, I promise!) Each day, plan to spend a few minutes with that day's study. Don't worry if some days you don't get it all. This isn't a race, and you can come back later. When we meet next group session, we'll have this week's study to discuss. Now let's get to know each other, and I'll join you by way of video.

BEFORE THE VIDEO

Welcome and Prayer

VIDEO NOTES

Haggai 2:4 is an invitation from God—not just an imperative command.

Taking courage comes from taking God at His word and trusting His promises.

We need to take the courage that God offers us so that we can be the women He has created us to be and do what He has called us to do.

Haggai prophesied at the same time as the prophet Zechariah.¹

Haggai lived during the same historical period as Confucius, the Chinese philosopher.²

Unfortunately, the Jews did not follow God's command.

The Book of Haggai contains four sermons that Haggai preached in four months.

The Jews are now under *Roman* rule.

- King Solomon *built* a temple.
- King Nebuchadnezzar *destroyed* a temple.
- King Cyrus said, “*Rebuild* that temple.”
- King Jesus said, “I *am* the temple.”

CONVERSATION GUIDE

Video 1 and Getting to Know Each Other

What is one thing you want this group to know about you?

What drew you to this study of Haggai?

What do you hope to gain from this study?

Would you like to read my written summary of this video teaching? Just go to JenniferRothschild.com/TakeCourage

Video sessions available for purchase or rent at LifeWay.com/TakeCourage

GROUP Session 2

BEFORE THE VIDEO

Welcome and Prayer

VIDEO NOTES

We have all had seasons of exile.

Our exile feels like we are isolated and not in the promised land we expected.

Ways we may experience exile:

- Sometimes our exile is geographical.
- Sometimes the exile we feel is physical.
- Sometimes our exile shows up in our relationships.
- There is purpose in exile.

Some of the purposes of exile:

- God may be allowing exile to discipline us.
- Another reason for our exile is that God could be pruning us.
- Sometimes God proves us in exile.

Three Practices of a Woman in Exile:

1. Participate with your exile.
 - Exile is about construction not destruction.
 - Plant something.
 - Increase in relationship.
 - Seek the welfare of our exile.
2. She pursues God in her exile.
 - The only way you are protected from the lies in exile is to know the truth.
 - If you do not know truth, you will not recognize a lie.
3. She is patient with her exile.
 - We need to be patient with ourselves.

- We need to show patience with the process of exile.
- We need to show patience with God.

CONVERSATION GUIDE

Video 2

DAY 1: What stood out to you in your first read-through of Haggai? What did you find confusing? Encouraging?

When have you recently walked through a season of discouragement? What brought you low?

DAY 2: Do you ever feel like you are not useful in God's work? Why? How does Scripture combat those feelings?

What do you see as your current mission assignment?

DAY 3: How do you relate to the Jews' backstory of discouragement, despair, and fear?

We usually relate discouragement to a difficult season of life, but have you ever experienced discouragement during a time when things seemed good? If so, what does that tell you about discouragement?

DAY 4: When you see how God has woven the story of the Messiah through the Old Testament, what does that tell you about God?

How do you see God weaving you into His story?

DAY 5: How has God used different people to grow and shape your Christian life?

When you look back over your life, how do you see the sovereignty of God at work?

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GROUP Session 3

BEFORE THE VIDEO

Welcome and Prayer

VIDEO NOTES

The Samaritans were considered the enemies of Judah.

Samaritan Strategies

1. They seek to manipulate.
2. They seek to deflate.
 - *To be discouraged* means that courage has been removed from you.
 - The word *discouraged* is also translated as *weaken your hand*.
3. They escalate.
4. They frustrate your work.

GROUP Session 4

BEFORE THE VIDEO

Welcome and Prayer

VIDEO NOTES

Sometimes courage can lead to discouragement.

The prophet Jeremiah was called to what we might call a ministry of failure.

Jeremiah was proclaiming truth that no one wanted to hear.

Jeremiah was relying on God's Word.

Jeremiah was faithful to the ministry God called him to.

When we are discouraged, we can take courage because we were created, consecrated, and called by God.

Sometimes it takes courage to accept that we don't deserve His love; we didn't earn His love; we can't lose His love.

The word *consecrated* means that you are set apart for something sacred.¹

Your holiness is not dependent on you.

When you are given a calling, it means God has given you something that is uniquely yours to do.

When you intersect your passion with your proficiency, and you find spiritual purpose there, chances are that's your calling.

GROUP Session 5

BEFORE THE VIDEO

Welcome and Prayer

VIDEO NOTES

Courage is not one and done.

Discouragement is real, but it's not real estate.

When you live in the presence of God, you live out the purpose of God for your life.

Hannah is the Old Testament version of *Anna*.

Hannah and *Anna* mean "favor" and "grace."¹

The discouragement in your life may be the very thing that God is using to position you to see Christ more clearly.

Three Courage Confessions

1. It is what it is.

- Courageous women learn to look at the reality that God has allowed them to experience and say, "OK. It is what it is."

2. I build more than I see.

- The world desperately needs what God has wired you to do.

3. I am never alone.

- When you feel the most alone, abandoned, or discouraged, that is when you are the least alone because God is near to the brokenhearted.

GROUP Session 6

BEFORE THE VIDEO

Welcome and Prayer

VIDEO NOTES

The Hebrew word for *glory* is *kaved* which means “heavy.”¹

When God’s glory comes down, your issues may come up.

Isaiah’s Issues

1. “Woe is me.”

It is healthy for us to have a right estimate of who we really are.

2. “I am undone.”

The Hebrew word in Hosea 4:6 for destroyed is the same as the word for *undone* in Isaiah 6:5.²

3. “I am a man of unclean lips.”

When the glory falls and it shakes you up, it is to cleanse and consecrate you.

Group Session 7

BEFORE THE VIDEO

Welcome and Prayer

VIDEO NOTES

The Four “I Cans” of Courageous Women

1. I can live alert.

The cost of vigilance is far less than the price you pay when you live distracted.

Living alert means to not be distracted and to live in community.

2. I can stand firm in the faith.

Courageous women go with what we know—not with how we feel.

3. Be courageous.

Be courageous in the original Greek, *andrizomai*, shows up one time in the New Testament and it literally means “be a man.”¹

To be really courageous, we need to have an eternal perspective.

Endurance is active participation in whatever “cross” God has allowed in your life.

In Hebrews 12:2 the word *despise* means “to consider it lowly.”²

To be courageous, to “be a man,” do not allow your life to be governed by feelings but by faith.

4. I can be strong.