

Sounds Week 13:

Small Steps God Multiplies

This week traces the story from Abraham to the return from exile, where the rebuilding of the temple stalls until God raises up Haggai and Zechariah. Haggai calls the remnant to “give careful thought to your ways” (Hag 1:5,7): stop the blur, check the fruit, and reorder priorities—God’s house first. Zechariah adds courage: the work advances **not by might** but **by God’s Spirit** (Zech 4:6); the **capstone** will come out with shouts of blessing (4:7,9); **don’t despise** small beginnings (4:10). In Christ, the church is God’s living temple (1 Cor 3:16–17; Eph 2:19–22). Our part is obedient “yeses”—time, talent, treasure; God’s part is presence, power, and completion (Eph 3:20–21; Phil 1:6). As Ekklesia steps into Game Changer and Advance Commitment Night, we align our lives to what matters for eternity: **Your house, Your honor, Your mission—first.**

Discussion Questions

1. **Where did the temple rebuild stall—and why?**
 - **Answer:** Opposition discouraged and frightened the people; officials were bribed; the remnant said, “Not yet” (Ezra 4:4–5; Haggai 1:2). God exposes misplaced priorities: paneled houses while His house lies in ruins (Haggai 1:4).
 - **Apply:** Where have I said “not yet” to God’s work? Name one area where comfort or fear has displaced obedience.
2. **What does Haggai mean by “Give careful thought to your ways”?**
 - **Answer:** Examine outcomes: much planting, little harvest; wages in a purse with holes—holly disruption meant to wake us up (Haggai 1:5–7, 9–11). Jesus adds the test: “By their fruit you will recognize them” (Matthew 7:16,20).
 - **Apply:** “Put the fruit on the scale.” What fruit do we see at Ekklesia? How should that shape my participation?
3. **What moves the work from start to finish?**
 - **Answer:** **Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit** (Zechariah 4:6). God levels the mountain and promises completion: “**his hands will also complete it**” (Zechariah 4:7,9). God is **with** His people (Haggai 1:13; 2:4–5).
 - **Apply:** Where do I need to trade self-effort anxiety for Spirit-reliant obedience this week?
4. **How does the “day of small things” shape our next step?**
 - **Answer:** Don’t despise small beginnings; the Lord **rejoices** to see the chosen **capstone** in Zerubbabel’s hand (Zechariah 4:10 NIV). The church is now God’s temple—our faithful steps build people (1 Corinthians 3:16–17; Ephesians 2:19–22).
 - **Apply:** Name **one small, concrete** action (time, talent, treasure) you’ll take before Advance Commitment Night (Fri, Nov 7) and Game Changer Commitment Weekend (Sun, Nov 16).
5. **What promises anchor our generosity and service?**
 - **Answer:** God does **immeasurably more** according to **His power at work within us** (Ephesians 3:20–21); the One who **began** a good work will **carry it on to completion** (Philippians 1:6); when the word lands, the people **obey** and God **stirs** their spirits (Haggai 1:12–14; Ezra 6:14).
 - **Apply:** What commitment (amount, frequency, ministry step) best reflects these promises in your household right now?

Prayer Prompts

1. **Reordering:** Lord, show us where we're 'washing rental cars.' Reorder our loves—**Your house, Your honor, Your mission—first.**
2. **Reliance:** Holy Spirit, empower our small steps—level the mountains, multiply our offering, and carry this work to completion.
3. **Revival:** Father, continue saving, restoring, sending, and building Your living temple here—immeasurably more than we ask or imagine.