Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Haggai 2:1-9

Be Strong

Getting Started

Thinking back over the past 12 months, what has God done to encourage you – to help you remain faithful?

Background

- **Read ch. 1**. Why did God rebuke the Israelites through the prophet Haggai?

- How did the people respond to Haggai's preaching?

Digging In

1. **Read Haggai 2:1-3.** How much time had passed since Haggai delivered his first message? (Compare 1:1 and 2:1)

2. Why do you think some of the Israelites would have been downhearted as the temple slowly began taking shape?

3. **Read vss. 4-5**. What exhortation is repeated three times?

4. What assurance does God give them to strengthen their hands and hearts?

5. How does this promise relate to God's original covenant with Israel when he brought them out of Egypt? (see Exod 29:44-46)

6. How does it compare with what God said to Joshua when he commissioned him to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land? (Josh 1:6-9)

7. Compare Hag 2:4-5 with Matt 28:18-20 and Acts 1:6-8.

8. **Read vss. 6-9**. How do these verses show that God has not forgotten his promises to bless Israel?

9. How do these verses relate to the second coming of Christ? (see Hebrews 12:26-27)

Getting Personal

- How can the promise of God's presence give us hope to carry on in hard times?

- How can it help us to remain faithful to do the work he's called us to do?

- What practical steps can we take to cultivate a perspective that is focused more on God's promises than the world's problems?