

ZECHARIAH: SMALL GROUP LEADERS GUIDE

If the prophet Haggai was a man with his feet on the ground (a man of practicality), then Zechariah was a man with his feet in the clouds. During a time when the people of God were getting discouraged with the difficult task of rebuilding the temple, the prophet receives a series of eight visions. These future visions included details of the temple, the city of Jerusalem, the people of God, and the King of His people. Sometimes it's easy to get mired in the practical work of the present when we lose sight of the future glory of heaven. Zechariah encourages the people to press on in their present work knowing that God has a future plan of glory.

THINKING POINTS FROM STUDY

1 It was no accident that Haggai and Zechariah ministered alongside each other. Haggai was the man of practicality that encouraged the people in the work. Zechariah was the man of vision who challenged them to dream of a better tomorrow. These two prophets perfectly complimented each other.

QUESTIONS: *Why is it important to have dreams as a Christian? What are those dreams? Has God given you a vision for what He wants to accomplish in and through your life? Just like Haggai balanced Zechariah, our dreams need to be balanced in what way? What are you doing to fulfill the dream God has given you?*

2 The people had become discouraged in the rebuilding process. They faced opposition and constant complaining. Zerubbabel's temple would never be as good as Solomon's was the general sentiment. Zechariah's visions were given to do more than challenge the people to look to the future. They were given to get the people's perspective off of the past. It's hard to move forward always looking behind.

QUESTIONS: *What does it mean to forget those things which are behind and reach forward to those things which are ahead? Not that we should be ignorant of past lessons, but why is it important to keep our perspective on the future? Zechariah challenged the people to look ahead. Paul challenges us to forget what's behind. What things should we leave in the past - good, bad, or both?*

3 Zechariah's prophecies are truly magnificent. Aside from the Day of the Lord, Zechariah writes about Jesus' first and second comings. The prophetic details include: entering Jerusalem riding on a donkey, being betrayed by 30 pieces of silver, His followers scattering.

QUESTIONS: *Zechariah's visions challenged the people to look to the future ministry of whom? Why should we keep our heavenly perspective on Jesus? Should the goal be to know more of Jesus or to know Jesus? What does this mean? What is the difference?*

DEVOTIONS

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