



# REBUILDING THE CHURCH

## HAGGAI STUDY



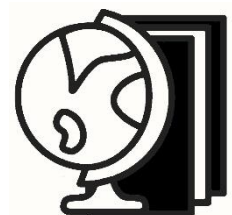
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## Framework

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### The 4-Stage Growth Development for Revitalizing a Church

- |   |            |                   |
|---|------------|-------------------|
| 1. <b>Pioneer – Design a Biblical Foundation...</b> |            | Haggai 1:1-15     |
| a. Realign with Scripture...                        | OT Summary | 1:1-4             |
| b. Renew our Minds                                  | Clarify    | 1:5-11            |
| c. Redirect our Hearts;                             | Align      | 1:12-15           |
| 2. <b>Parent – Structure a Vision...</b>            |            | Haggai 2:1-9      |
| a. Reconstruct our Plan                             |            | 2:1-4             |
| b. Reform our Tradition                             |            | 2:5               |
| c. Replant the Missional Mandate                    |            | 2:6-9             |
| 3. <b>Partner – Develop a Strategy...</b>           |            | Haggai 2:10-23    |
| a. Recommit to the Great Commandment                |            | 2:10-19           |
| b. Reinstitute Discipleship                         |            | 2:20-23           |
| c. Rebuild our Process                              | Movement   | Deuteronomy 6:5-7 |
| 4. <b>Participant – Expand Out...</b>               |            | Acts 1 & 2        |
| a. Recycle our Resources                            | Focus      | 1:4-26            |
| d. Replicate the Biblical Church                    |            | 2:14-36           |
| b. Repeat the Model to Plant Churches               |            | 2:37-47           |

### What is our Vision Statement for the Church?

Our Vision statement should line up with scripture, encourage the fellowship of believers, and connect to our culture.

- A SIMPLE CHURCH is a congregation designed around a straightforward and strategic process that moves people through the stages of spiritual growth.
- Spiritual growth, which is sanctification, is the process of the believer becoming more and more like Christ.  
Clarity, Alignment, Movement, Focus

### What are some things involved to move people through the stages of spiritual growth?

CLARITY – the ability of the process to be communicated and understood by the people.

ALIGNMENT – the arrangement of all ministries and staff around the same simple process.

MOVEMENT – the sub sequential steps in the process that cause people to move toward greater areas of commitment.

FOCUS – the commitment to abandon everything that falls outside the simple ministry process.



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**DEVELOP A STRATEGY FOR MINISTRY:  
(Part 3 of REBUILDING THE CHURCH)  
Haggai 2:10-23**

**February 10-24, 2019  
Pastor Trevor Cooper**

**STRATEGY**

We are about to dive into the fourth message of Haggai which occurred on the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month in the second year of Darius which was Dec. 18, 520 B.C. In my current Seminary course, I am learning about prophets and prophecies. When we read a book like Haggai, we need to know that some prophets had other jobs, name some of these prophets and what their original jobs were. Priests like (Jeremiah, Ezekiel), a Statesman like (Daniel), a Farmer like (Amos) and Scribes (Isaiah). Prophets become prophets by being called by God and chose at a specific time for a specific message; sometimes the prophet would give a sign to confirm the truthfulness of the prophecy. These prophets were leaders like Moses, advisors or social/spiritual commentators and writers like Elisha, Elijah and Jeremiah, while some were Apocalyptic encouragers like Daniel and Zachariah (which Haggai's message here was one month after Zachariah started prophesying about Messiah). Forthtelling: he proclaims God's message in hope that it will change the current situation. Foretelling: The prophet proclaims the outcome if the nation does to repent. God must be able to tell the future! God is such a good God that He sends the people a prophet to clearly speak why is doing something before He acts. Here is Haggai, the spokesman of God, with another message because even though the people have begun building the temple, the people had not yet seen the deeper issue – their abuse before the holy God.

READ, Haggai 2:10-19, (20-23)

I am so glad that our God doesn't react to us as we might think, but rather God always ACTS to us and for His glory. Often prophets would draw attention and inform the message that was given; the more they do symbolic actions, the closer they get to punishment or an event God is about to do. Haggai provides an analogy or object lesson for the people, by asking two questions of the priest related to ceremonial law.

Haggai 2:10-23; Deuteronomy 6:5-9 (what good is a vision, a goal, or a plan if we never act on it) **First, We Need to RECOMMIT to The GREAT COMMANDMENT.** <sup>12</sup> The first question was intended to show that ceremonial cleanness cannot be transferred. The holy meat mentioned here were visible observances of Old Testament religion. **The sacrifices were not able to transfer cleanness and were of NO VALUE without obedience from the HEART.** <sup>13</sup> The second question showed that ceremonial uncleanness can be transferred. <sup>14</sup> Even though the people had been bringing their offerings while neglecting the rebuilding of the temple, their offerings had not been acceptable. <sup>15-18</sup> The Lord called the people to again consider their situation. In those days, the farmer found less than expected. <sup>16</sup> Between 50 to 60 percent of the expected harvest had been lost. And their good works, their offerings, could not transmit cleanness. **Their SIN had caused their SACRIFICES to be contaminated and ineffectual. In other words, sin is CONTAGIOUS, righteousness is not.** "Go and learn what this means, I desire mercy, and not sacrifice." For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners." Matthew 9:13 God calls those who do religion really well, but those who have a genuine heart. <sup>19</sup> As a result of their obedience, God promised to bless them from that day forth. (cf v 10) Have you given your heart to Jesus Christ? Are your efforts, your joy, your life, your sacrifices of good works done in vain or are they evident that your heart belongs to the LORD?

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**Second, We Need to RECOMMIT to The GREAT COMMANDMENT.** <sup>20-23</sup> The fifth message to Zerubbabel the governor of Judah came on the same day as the fourth, and he returned to the theme of vv. 6-9 and the millennial reign of the Messiah. This prophecy relates to the political events of the defeat of Persia by the Greeks shortly after the time of Haggai, but this prophecy will also be filled up by looking to the ultimate day when Messiah reigns on earth. <sup>23</sup> The signet ring was a symbol of honor, authority, and power. It corresponded to a king's scepter which was used to seal letters and decrees. Zerubbabel was God's chosen representative to accomplish His work as God's signet ring. Isaiah spoke of a greater Servant who would come, whom Zerubbabel foreshadows, that Servant of God is JESUS, a true descendant of Zerubbabel himself.

But we must know something about our heart... The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good. Psalm 14; For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person." Mark 7; The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? Jer. 17; and I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." Ezek. 36; Just because Israel would have a rebuilt temple doesn't mean they would be holy in God's eyes. Just because we have said the right prayer, have done something good, and go to church does not mean we would be holy in God's eyes.

Why is God so focus on the heart of man? "Where your treasure is, that is where your heart is." Matt. "With the heart a man believes and is justified" Rom. 10; "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer." Psalm 19; "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer." 1 Sam. 16; "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. (Matt 22:37; Deut. 6:5) **God demands genuine change of HEART and LIFE, not mere outward conformity. This is more than words/action...**

God desires our heart more than our sacrifice. What are some things involved to move people through the stages of spiritual growth? **MOVEMENT** – the sub sequential steps in the process that cause people to move toward greater areas of commitment.

READ, Deuteronomy 6:1-9

<sup>5</sup> Have you given God time, thought, your heart Jesus Follower, your soul, your might/strength? The Hebrew expresses "might" as totality. NT renders it as might and strength for this reason. God does not demand mere outward obedience to a law, but the heartfelt love and commitment of the whole person. Where are you at in this process? First Baptist Church of Cypress Discipleship Process Diagram; Where are you at in this process? "I am certain that God who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished." Philippians 1:6

**Third, We Need to REINSTITUTE DISCIPLESHIP.** (Deuteronomy 6:7-9) Discipleship is simply training and teaching others to learn from Jesus to live like Jesus. A multiplying disciple of Christ is a believer who goes into the community in which they live and capitalize on relationships by obediently teaching the Gospel vocally, modeling their life as a witness of Christ openly, and training other individuals to do the same. Where do we start looking for biblical model at how to properly disciple? We look to Jesus who often times quoted Deuteronomy. <sup>4:9</sup> Deuteronomy, known as the Shema: The centrality of the original introduction to the older law code of Israel. This Great Commandment was the basis to formulate a theology that exert influence over much of the Hebrew Bible. stresses the covenant

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responsibility of parents for their children. It continues in the NT in "Jesus said, Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:14

"89% of Gen-Z students who are leaving the church after high school regularly attended worship service." Lifeway Research

**Article:**

Is Satan Stealing Our Families article: "It's taking everything we've called normal over the past few decades or more and realizing that it's actually destroying the family unit. Our kids are playing ball 3-5 times a week until 10pm, and the parents are working 60 hours a week to keep designer duds on the kiddos lest they get bullied for wearing Wal-Mart brand clothing. Everyone has a TV in their room, a cell phone in their pocket, and a new car in the driveway yet none of that will go to Heaven with us. We're working very hard providing material possessions for our children, when in all reality we should be on our knees with them leading them to a closer walk with Jesus. Eternal life is what we should want for our kids, not the best education money can buy. And while I'm all for giving them a bright future, I don't want to give them the world if it forfeits their soul."

Much of these demands in verses 7-9 are not heavy for us to follow because of the spiritual and intellectual demand of the previous verse to love God with all you are and not forget God. Once we surrender that, then these other demands tend to fall into place.

**Understanding Family Ministries:** How can we activate a parent to be the spiritual leader in their home? This happens in the momentum of building blocks and progress from the opportunities you already have in your schedule. Look at Deuteronomy 6:7-9 and consider four areas:

- A. When you are in the House – ENTERTAIN** – Lay a biblical foundation of values & morals
- B. When you are on the Road - ENGAGE** – Relate to each other and Resolve issues
- C. When you are Lying Down - ENCOURAGE** – Remind and Reflect on God's blessing & person
- D. When you are rising – EQUIP** – Prepare and Coach your child for the day

Don't create new opportunities but use opportunities in your normal routine to be a spiritual leader to the student or child.

**Parent's Engagement:** Typically, a parent's engagement is high when their child is born, and it begins to decrease UNFORTUNATELY as the child gets older. It is at age 12 years for the child that becomes the moment these paths cross as a parent becomes less engaged and will continue. WHY? **Most parents under-emphasize their effectiveness and influence; they seek support. Most ministers over-emphasize their effectiveness and influence; they offer support.** The parents are the biggest influencers. We must realize there is a difference in relevance and influence. Children look for life's guidance from the people they are most connected with.

**3000/40 Principle:** The church = 40-100 hrs. a year to influence a student, the parent = 3,000 hrs. TODAY'S CHALLENGE is that we must go through the home to win the battle!!!

The Problem: "And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel." Judges 2:10

The Solution: "What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." 2 Timothy 2:2

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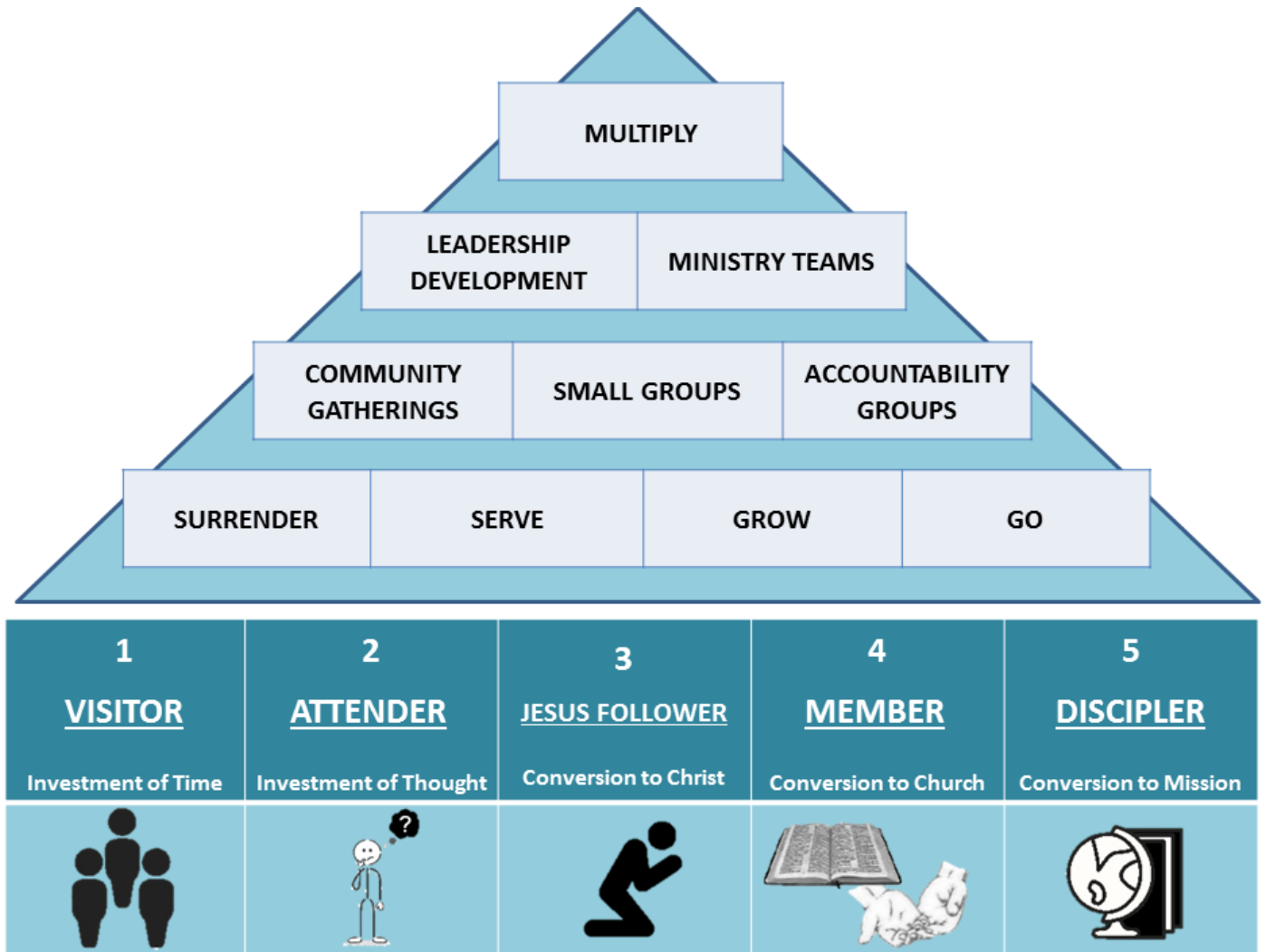
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**We Need to REBUILD our PROCESS.** (Deuteronomy 6:8-9) What are some things involved to move people through the stages of spiritual growth?

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CYPRESS DISCIPLESHIP MOVEMENT



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