

THE STORY

Personal Devotion Questions

Chapter 19

The Return Home

Day One

1. If you had been an Israelite exile in Babylon when King Cyrus permitted your return, would you have returned to the Promised Land or would you have remained in Babylon? Why?
2. How had the LORD's 70-year discipline affected the people of Israel? Have you experienced personal change as a result of the LORD's discipline?

Day Two

1. What did Israel's enemies do to undermine their efforts to rebuild their temple (p. 219)? When have you experienced a similar situation wherein someone tried to undermine something important to you? How did you respond?
2. Read page 220, and list the reasons the temple work had ceased. Do you struggle with misplaced priorities? What are some ways you can reprioritize your life?
3. Some were disappointed that the new temple was no match to the glory and beauty of Solomon's temple. How can such comparisons be dangerous? According to Haggai's second message (p. 221), what is the remedy for their – and our – discouragement?

Day Three

1. Haggai the Prophet encouraged the people to get back to work on the temple building project that had stalled for sixteen years (p. 220). Are there areas of your spiritual growth that have stalled out?
2. Review Zechariah's message of hope and promise. What did God promise the faithful Israelites He would do? List the ways they were to respond to God's grace (p. 222.) How do you rate in these areas?

