

## Weekly Devotional

\*Material from "The Story" curriculum by Randy Frazee with Kevin and Sherry Harney.

### *Session 19 – The Return Home*

"Give careful thought to your ways. You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it." Haggai 1:5-6

God is either the main thing in your life or he is nothing. At the end of the day, each of us are responsible for our own schedule. There is really no such thing as partial obedience. God begins as the priority and then we schedule time with him. We schedule the things that are important to him.

Jesus said, "Seek first the kingdom of God . . ." (Matthew 6:33).

The Jews eventually got back to God's priorities and took part in one of the greatest works of heaven. You can too. There are some things worth finishing.

Read Ch. 19 in The Story book or in your Bible (you will be reading from 3 books of the Bible: **Ezra** 1:1-7,11; 2:64-67; 3:1-5,10-13; 4:1-5,24; **Haggai** 1:1-15; 2:1-9; **Zechariah** 1:1; 8:2-23; and **Ezra** 5:3-17; 6:1-15; and 6:16-18.

Think on these questions:

1. What do these passages tell us about GOD? (Who is God? What is God like? What has God done?)
2. What do these passages tell us about US (Human Beings)? (What/how are we supposed to be? What has gone wrong?)
3. What do these passages tell us about HOW WE SHOULD LIVE? (What has God done about what has gone wrong? What does He expect of us? How should we live?)

Closing Prayer:

*As you take time to pray, here are some ideas to get you started:*

- Confess that sometimes we fail to keep God the main focus in our lives.
- Pray for strength to do God's will no matter what comes into our lives.
- Ask God to use you to further his kingdom here on earth.

Personal Action:

Spend time with God asking God what you need in your life so that you can serve Him with all your heart, strength, and mind. Then make a plan to add these needed items to your life.

Next Session: Please read ch 20 of The Story, "The Queen of Beauty and Courage"