



STUDY 9

The Heart of a Builder

Haggai 2:3-9

We are created in the image of Jesus Christ, the Master Builder. In the New Testament Jesus says, "I will build my Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Such is the heart of God to build His House. In Haggai, he asked his people who had seen the temple's former glory how they saw the house of God now. The same question is being asked of us in this generation. How do we see this building? How do we see the house of God?

Pastor Brian gave the following visionary declaration over the opening of our new Alexandria facility.

The Building that I see is faithfulness manifested in bricks and mortar. It is the physical evidence of sacrificial foresight, unselfish generosity and forward thinking. I see a building pregnant with heavenly possibilities and God-breathed potential; a building that is a miraculous answer to prayer and a cause for great joy and celebration.

I see future weddings for couples who have not yet met; a loving home where children will be dedicated, young people will be impacted and lifelong friendships will be made. I see a building where powerful messages will be received that are not yet preached and songs will be sung that are not yet written; Holy Spirit-inspired worship anthems that truly touch heaven and change earth.

I see a building where salvation will flow, miracles will be experienced and the Spirit of God will be undeniably evidenced. I see a building in which Christ will be exalted, God will be glorified and lives will be changed forever.

CONNECTION AND ACTION Use these questions to promote conversation and connection.

ICEBREAKER: What is your favourite building? What do you like about it?

Q: What do you like about our church's buildings?

Q: How can a building express something about God?

Q: What do you think our buildings say about God and his people?

Q: Why do you think church buildings are important? What are the benefits of a church building?

Activity: Get everyone in the group to write down why they love the church. Go around the group and get everyone to read out what they've written.

Read out Ps Brian's quote above. Ask people for their responses and impressions.



I LOVE MY CONNECT

BIBLE AND BELIEF Use these questions and scriptures to help believers develop a biblical worldview.

Read: Haggai 1:1-2:5

- Q.** What was the scenario at the time when God spoke to His people through His prophet Haggai?
- Q.** How did Haggai demonstrate a life committed to the building of the House of God?
- Q.** What can we learn from Haggai's challenge to the people of God in ch 1? How can we apply this in how we look at the church today?
- Q.** What encouragements did Haggai give the people about building God's house in ch 2? How can they be applied to us today?
- Q:** Why do you think the bible likens the people of God (the church), to a building (the temple, the house of God)?
- Q.** What parallels are there between building a physical house and building the house of God – the people of God?

GROWING LEADERSHIP Use these questions to help people in your group grow as leaders.

- Q:** What are the qualities of a church builder?
- Q:** Which of these qualities are strengths for you, and which ones need some work?
- Q:** What has been your biggest revelation about the Church this year?
- Q:** How would you respond to someone who says "I don't give to buildings, I only give to people."
- Q:** What are you doing in your leadership to create a heart for the house amongst those you lead?

Strategising

Spend time with your leaders strategizing how to cultivate passion for the House amongst your groups and teams

PRAY TOGETHER

- Pastors Brian & Bobbie Houston
- Decisions for Jesus in our Services
- New Connect Group Leaders