

Leading With Vision

HAGGAI 1:1-15

1 In the second year of King Darius, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest: **2** This is what the LORD Almighty says: "These people say, 'The time has not yet come for the LORD's house to be built.' " **3** Then the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: **4** "Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?" **5** Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: "**Give careful thought to your ways.** **6** You have planted much, but have 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." **7** This is what the LORD Almighty says: "**Give careful thought to your ways.** **8** Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build the house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored," says the LORD. **9** "You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?" declares the LORD Almighty. "Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with his own house. **10** Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. **11** I called for a drought on the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the oil and whatever the ground produces, on men and cattle, and on the labor of your hands." **12** Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the whole remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the LORD their God and the message of the prophet Haggai, because the LORD their God had sent him. And the people feared the LORD. **13** Then Haggai, the LORD's messenger, gave this message of the LORD to the people: "I am with you," declares the LORD. **14** So the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people. They came and began to work on the house of the LORD Almighty, their God, **15** on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month in the second year of King Darius.



What do you hear in God's tone? Why?

How do you feel about God's strategy?

How might there have arisen a difference between the people's understanding of God's call, and God's actual call?

How do you think the people ended up focusing their energies being 'busy on their own paneled houses'?

INTERVARSITY®

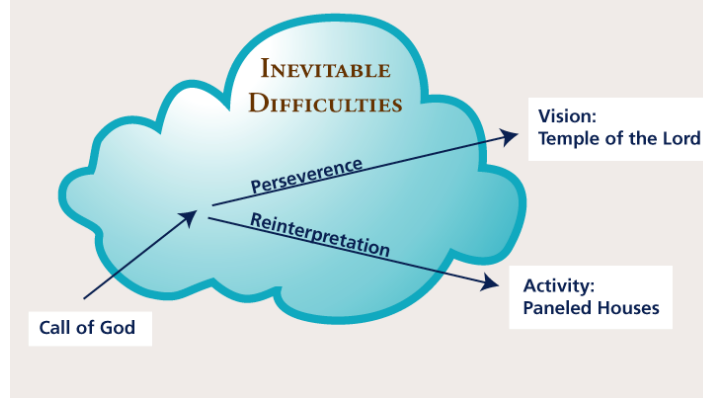
LEADING
EDGE

SEEING CLEARLY :

- ▶ When _____ of God becomes difficult, it's easy to _____ on our own terms.
- ▶ When we're _____ of God, we usually find some other _____ to occupy our time.
- ▶ Biblical leaders help their communities get a corporate vision from God, and help them _____ in obeying that vision when things get _____.



The Haggai 1 Leadership Principle



Case Study

- ▶ The following is a case study of the kinds of relationships you will likely have as **servant** leaders. How would you exercise insight and foresight in this case?

After being on staff for three years, Jerry began creating more space to hear God call him to new mission fields on campus. As he did, he became aware of the number of Indian students who didn't know Jesus, and had no one reaching out to them. With new faith, Jerry began networking with these students on campus, meeting many of them quickly. A month into this new outreach, however, one of the Indian students started a rumor that Jerry was a part of a cult. Wanting to dispel false impressions, Jerry avoided some of the skeptics, but continued going deeper with the receptive Indian Christians. Two years later, the Indian small group Bible study was still going, providing one of the only places for Indian Christians to grow on campus.



Ask :

- ▶ What is your interpretation of this turn of events in Jerry's life?

Respond :

- ▶ What does Jerry need to see and to do in order to continue to respond to God's call now?

For reflection:

1. Has God given you a vision or a call in your ministry?
2. What are the paneled houses in your life that you need to watch out for?
3. How do you know when you're avoiding the call of God?
4. What is God giving you through Haggai that you can bring to your campus?

Leading With Vision

HAGGAI 1:1-15

1 In the second year of King Darius, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest: **2** This is what the LORD Almighty says: “These people say, ‘The time has not yet come for the LORD’s house to be built.’ ” **3** Then the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: **4** “Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?” **5** Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. **6** You have planted much, but have 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.” **7** This is what the LORD Almighty says: “**Give careful thought to your ways.** **8** Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build the house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored,” says the LORD. **9** “You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?” declares the LORD Almighty. “Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with his own house. **10** Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. **11** I called for a drought on the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the oil and whatever the ground produces, on men and cattle, and on the labor of your hands.” **12** Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the whole remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the LORD their God and the message of the prophet Haggai, because the LORD their God had sent him. And the people feared the LORD. **13** Then Haggai, the LORD’s messenger, gave this message of the LORD to the people: “I am with you,” declares the LORD. **14** So the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people. They came and began to work on the house of the LORD Almighty, their God, **15** on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month in the second year of King Darius.



What do you hear in God’s tone? Why?

Frustration, exasperation, firm kindness, loving rebuke.

How do you feel about God’s strategy?

Initially, it can feel somewhat harsh, particularly when God says that he “blew away” what they brought home. However, seeing the way that God uses difficult circumstances to get their attention, and turn them back to him, it’s clear that this withholding is meant to lead them back into fulfilling a vision that will have them

How might there have arisen a difference between the people’s understanding of God’s call, and God’s actual call?

The initial call was probably clear enough, but they probably encountered opposition, much like they do later in Nehemiah. When this came, it felt easier to re-shape the call, rather than to admit that they were unwilling to fulfill the call.

How do you think the people ended up focusing their energies being ‘busy on their own paneled houses’?

When they weren’t moving forward with God’s call to build the temple, they had idle time. Rather than lie around—which could heighten their awareness of their forfeit—they found something to occupy their time with the timber and building supplies they’d already gathered for the temple.

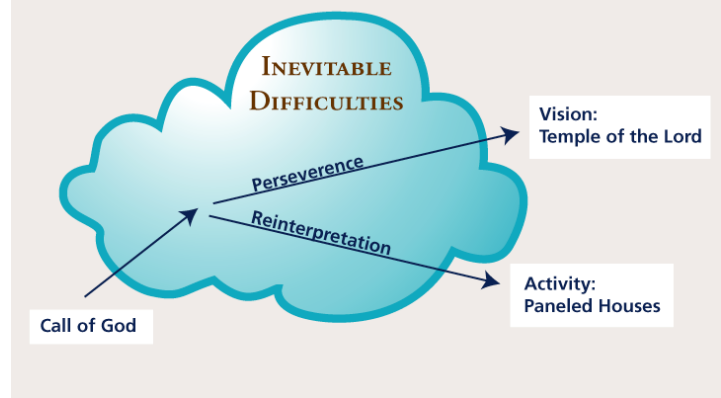
INTERVARSITY®

LEADING
EDGE

SEEING CLEARLY :

- When **obeying the call** of God becomes difficult, it's easy to **reinterpret the call** on our own terms.
- When we're **resisting the call** of God, we usually find some other **activity** to occupy our time.
- Biblical leaders help their communities get a corporate vision from God, and help them **persevere** in obeying that vision when things get **difficult**.

The Haggai 1 Leadership Principle



Case Study

- The following is a case study of the kinds of relationships you will likely have as **servant** leaders. How would you exercise insight and foresight in this case?

After being on staff for three years, Jerry began creating more space to hear God call him to new mission fields on campus. As he did, he became aware of the number of Indian students who didn't know Jesus, and had no one reaching out to them. With new faith, Jerry began networking with these students on campus, meeting many of them quickly. A month into this new outreach, however, one of the Indian students started a rumor that Jerry was a part of a cult. Wanting to dispel false impressions, Jerry avoided some of the skeptics, but continued going deeper with the receptive Indian Christians. Two years later, the Indian small group Bible study was still going, providing one of the only places for Indian Christians to grow on campus.

ASK :

- What is your interpretation of this turn of events in Jerry's life?

RESPOND :

- What does Jerry need to see and to do in order to continue to respond to God's call now?

For reflection:

- Has God given you a vision or a call in your ministry?
- What are the paneled houses in your life that you need to watch out for?
- How do you know when you're avoiding the call of God?
- What is God giving you through Haggai that you can bring to your campus?