

## **Called to... Persevere**

*Haggai 2:1-9*

### Discussion Notes

- 1) Share one area of your life with the group where you feel like you are struggling to persevere or where you feel the call to persevere.

### **Call to Persevere**

- 2) Compare Ezra 3:10-13 with v3. How do these questions correspond to where the people might be at?
- 3) What does it look like for God's people to be strong and take courage? How is that linked to the call to work in v4? Where do we need to hear the encouragement to be strong and work? What would that look like for us today?

### **Reason #1: Because God is with you**

- 4) Reflect on verses 4 & 5, and the two statements the Lord declares, 'I am with you' and 'my Spirit remains among you'. How does this impact our ability to persevere? How would it encourage each of us to persevere in the situation we named in question 1?
- 5) Look through the following verses and reflect on the pattern you see around the call to work, the statement that God is with you, the need to abandon fear.
  - a. Deuteronomy 31:7-8
  - b. 1 Chronicles 28:20
  - c. Matthew 28:18-20
  - d. Acts 18:9-10
- 6) How does this understanding of how God has worked impact our view of how God will continue to work in our lives?

### **Reasons #2: Because God is in control**

- 7) Read over verses 6-9. Note the different contexts that God involves himself in and controls. Which of these areas do you find easier to see God's control in action? Which ones are harder? How does understanding that God is in control encourage each of us to persevere in the situation we named in question 1?
- 8) The promise in verse 9 is that God will grant his peace, his Shalom. This peace isn't about just the absence of conflict, but wholeness, tranquillity, completeness and welfare of the place. Read John 14:25-27 and discuss the idea of God's peace with the larger picture in mind.
- 9) Where would you like to see God's peace, his Shalom, more evident in your life? How do you think this is related to our call to persevere, not fearing, and understanding God is in control?

Today, as we look at our calling to 'work' in Matthew 28:18-20, where do we need to know God is with us? Where do we need to understand God is in control and stop trying to be in control ourselves? Where do we need to persevere in our work?