**Building Strong Faith - Lessons from Haggai**

**Lesson 4: Imagine**

**Notes to accompany teaching or as stand alone**

**Welcome** – What are you dreaming of? Dream holiday? Dream retirement? How do dreams help you in tough times?

**Word -** Read Haggai 2:1-9

What are you finding hardest about church at the moment?

What do you miss most about how we used to do church?

How do you identify with this passage?

What are the commands in v 4-5?

What is the promise?

But the commands are difficult to obey and promise difficult to claim without faith in the truth of God’s future.

Read Hebrews 11:1 – how do you understand this verse?

This is where we need faith to have Godly imagination or in the words of Joel as quoted by Peter in Acts 2 – we need young men to have God’s visions and old mean to dream God’s dreams by the Spirit.

What were the people needing to ‘see’ in the words from God in v 6-9

God will

1. Purify
2. Protect
3. Provide

God will give

1. Power
2. Peace

When and how do you think the future in verses 6 to 9 was fulfilled?

1. Partially in the present/near future – Ezra 6:4. Soon after, silver and gold came and the temple was rebuilt. (although not quite fulfilling v9)
2. Christ’s first coming – John tells us that we saw in Christ the tabernacled glory of God.
3. Christ’s second coming – yes the fulfillmet.

***So we will experience the joy of the fulfilment of God’s glory when Jesus returns. How does the second coming motivate you to build God’s temple(church) and Kingdom now?***

***We can experience the joy of God’s glory in our lives today by the Spirit. How does your experience of the Spirit motivate you to build God’s temple(church) and Kingdom now?***

***What does the present/near fulfilment look like for you/our church? Think of the 5 P’s***

***Ezekiel 37 &47***

The bible character that best epitomises IMAGINATION for me is the prophet Ezekiel.

Look at these two visions of Ezekiel. Read them and imagine what this means for us at WBC, your experience of Jesus and the future.

Share.

**Worship**

Spend some time worshipping together. Explore how you as a small group can worship together. As at this time, these groups may be the easiest place to worship. Do you have musicians? How can you explore and exercise spiritual gifts? How can you use scripture to enable your worship? What about YouTube clips? How can you use your bodies in worship?

**Witness**

What non-Christian family and friends do you see the Lord softening and opening up to him in these strange times? Commit to pray for them. Perhaps make a brick (cube) and write on the 6 faces – 4 people you want to bring into the household of God, top face pray for WBC and bottom face a mission organisation.