

## COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS FOR THE POST-EXILE MINOR PROPHETS HAGGAI, ZECHARIAH, & MALACHI

### WARM UP

*Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi are the final three books of the Old Testament and written to God's people who were returning from exile (during the same historical period that is addressed in Ezra and Nehemiah). Each has a unique and significant message. After these books, there will be 400 years of silence until the coming of the Messiah.*

If you were writing a letter to a close friend or family member and you knew you wouldn't be seeing them in person again in your lifetime, what would you want to say to them?

### EXPLORATION

- 1) Read Haggai 2:1-9. What specific promises are found in this passage? Why was this such a significant set of promises the Lord gave through Haggai?
- 2) The book of Zechariah has been called the "Apocalypse (or revelation) of the Old Testament." It contains a series of statements and images that reveal God's future plan for the nations. According to Zechariah 7:8-14, why did God bring judgment?
- 3) Read Zechariah 9:9-10 and Matthew 21:1-5. Why was the Lord giving this word of hope through Zechariah? What do you think was going on in the minds of the Jews who witnessed the Triumphal entry?
- 4) Read Zechariah 14:9 with Revelation 19:11-16. Who are these writers describing? Do this fit with our culture's understanding of Jesus? Why or why not?

- 5) Read Malachi 1:11-14 and 3:6-12. How is God described? How had the people cheated or robbed the Lord? How do you think the Lord would characterize our giving?

## **APPLICATION**

The entire message of the Old Testament is leading us to this place in which these final three prophets leave us. They leave us with a clear description of our struggle to faithfully follow the Lord, His great patience and mercy through our disobedience, and of our great need for the Messiah Jesus.

Take time in your group to confess your need for Jesus and thank him for His coming.