

BIG ROCKS FIRST

HAGGAI 1

Sermon Study - 1.4.2026

Leader's Corner

Haggai 1:1-15

Summary:

This study launches the new year with a call to place the “big rocks” — the most important spiritual priorities — into our lives first. In Haggai 1, God confronts Israel for being busy but spiritually empty because their priorities were misaligned. God graciously invites His people to pause, evaluate, and realign their lives with His purposes so that the year ahead is not wasted on building the wrong things.

Main Text:

Haggai 1:1–15

Main Idea:

Directions are necessary in order to reach the right destination. God calls us to align our priorities with His so we don't spend the year building what does not last.

Main Practice:

Identify and commit to the “big rock” God is asking you to prioritize in 2026 — and take one concrete step toward it this week.

Prayer and Praise

Liturgical Prayer for the Group:

Holy God, as we enter this new year, order our steps and shape our desires. Teach us to number our days and to put first what matters most to You. Where our priorities have drifted, bring us back. Where our hearts are cluttered, create space for Your presence. Strengthen us to seek Your kingdom first, to trust Your direction, and to walk in obedience. Align our lives with Your purposes so that all we build in this year brings You glory. In the name of Jesus, our Cornerstone—Amen.

Worship Song Suggestions:

1. “Build My Life” – Housefires / Pat Barrett
2. “Be Thou My Vision” – Traditional (any modern arrangement)

Principle

Main Discussion Section:

1. Let's review the Sunday sermon... What stood out to you?

2. Read Haggai 1:1–6.

Where do you see Israel's misplaced priorities showing up? How would you describe the difference between "activity" and "fruitfulness?"

3. "Give careful thought to your ways" (Haggai 1:7).

What does it look like to actually pause and evaluate your life with God? When have you needed to realign your priorities?

4. Israel was exhausted but unfulfilled (vv. 5–6).

How do you personally notice when your priorities are misaligned? What "symptoms" show up in your spiritual life, relationships, or habits?

5. Read Haggai 1:12–14

How does the people's response challenge or encourage you? What role does obedience play in realigning your priorities with God's?

6. Consider the metaphor of "big rocks first."

What are some common "small rocks" or distractions that tend to fill your life first? What big rock has God been nudging you toward?

7. God stirs the spirits of the people (v. 14).

Where do you sense the Holy Spirit stirring you as you begin this new year?

Practice

Individual Challenge:

Identify one big rock God is calling you to prioritize in 2026 (e.g., consistent Scripture engagement, Sabbath rest, serving, generosity, reconciling with someone, etc.).

Write it down and make one concrete commitment to put it first this week.

Group Challenge:

Before the group ends today, share one step each person will take toward their big rock.

Then as a group:

Pray specifically for each person's "big rock" priority. Check in with one another during the week (text, call, group chat).

Further Study

Day 1: Matthew 6:25–34

Question: What does it mean to "seek first the kingdom" in the rhythms of your daily life?

Day 2: Psalm 90:12–17

Question: Where do you need God to establish the work of your hands this year?

Day 3: Philippians 3:12–14

Question: What do you need to "press on" toward in 2026? What must you leave behind?

Day 4: Proverbs 3:5–6

Question: What areas of your life are hardest to trust God with as you set priorities?

Day 5: Colossians 3:1–4

Question: How can you "set your mind on things above" in practical, daily ways?

Day 6: Haggai 1:12–14

Question: Where do you sense God stirring you to obedience or renewed focus?

Day 7: Hebrews 12:1–3

Question: What weights or distractions is God asking you to lay aside this year?