

7-SESSION BIBLE STUDY

# TAKE COURAGE

A STUDY OF HAGGAI

JENNIFER ROTHSCHILD

VIEWER GUIDES

# Group Session 1

Rather than a formal leader guide in the back, we've provided what we hope is a simple and functional group plan on these pages with an additional word to leaders in the back. Each week will begin with a two-page group guide like this. I suggest you divide your group time into three parts: 1. Welcome and prayer; 2. Watch the video; 3. Group discussion of the personal study for the past week and the video you just watched.

The session guide for this first meeting is for us to get to know each other. Then we'll each go do our personal study. (It will be fun, I promise!) Each day, plan to spend a few minutes with that day's study. Don't worry if some days you don't get it all. This isn't a race, and you can come back later. When we meet next group session, we'll have this week's study to discuss. Now let's get to know each other, and I'll join you by way of video.

## BEFORE THE VIDEO

### *Welcome and Prayer*

## VIDEO NOTES

Haggai 2:4 is an \_\_\_\_\_ from God—not just an imperative command.

Taking courage comes from taking God at His \_\_\_\_\_ and trusting His \_\_\_\_\_.

We need to take the courage that God \_\_\_\_\_ us so that we can be the women He has \_\_\_\_\_ us to be and do what He has \_\_\_\_\_ us to do.

Haggai prophesied at the same time as the prophet \_\_\_\_\_.<sup>1</sup>

Haggai lived during the same historical period as \_\_\_\_\_, the Chinese philosopher.<sup>2</sup>

Unfortunately, the Jews did not follow \_\_\_\_\_.

The Book of Haggai contains four \_\_\_\_\_ that Haggai preached in four months.

The Jews are now under \_\_\_\_\_ rule.

- King Solomon \_\_\_\_\_ a temple.
- King Nebuchadnezzar \_\_\_\_\_ a temple.
- King Cyrus said, “\_\_\_\_\_ that temple.”
- King Jesus said, “I \_\_\_\_\_ the temple.”

## CONVERSATION GUIDE

### *Video 1 and Getting to Know Each Other*

What is one thing you want this group to know about you?

What drew you to this study of Haggai?

What do you hope to gain from this study?

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Taking courage comes from taking God at His word and trusting His promises.

We need to take the courage that God offers us so that we can be the women He has created us to be and do what He has called us to do.

Haggai prophesied at the same time as the prophet Zechariah.<sup>1</sup>

Haggai lived during the same historical period as Confucius, the Chinese philosopher.<sup>2</sup>

Unfortunately, the Jews did not follow God's command.

The Book of Haggai contains four sermons that Haggai preached in four months.

The Jews are now under Roman rule.

- King Solomon built a temple.
- King Nebuchadnezzar destroyed a temple.
- King Cyrus said, “Rebuild that temple.”
- King Jesus said, “I am the temple.”

## CONVERSATION GUIDE

### *Video 1 and Getting to Know Each Other*

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# Group Session 2

## BEFORE THE VIDEO

### Welcome and Prayer

## VIDEO NOTES

We have all had seasons of \_\_\_\_\_.

Our exile feels like we are \_\_\_\_\_ and not in the promised land we expected.

Ways we may experience exile:

- Sometimes our exile is \_\_\_\_\_.
- Sometimes the exile we feel is \_\_\_\_\_.
- Sometimes our exile shows up in our \_\_\_\_\_.
- There is purpose in \_\_\_\_\_.

Some of the purposes of exile:

- God may be allowing exile to \_\_\_\_\_ us.
- Another reason for our exile is that God could be \_\_\_\_\_ us.
- Sometimes God \_\_\_\_\_ us in exile.

Three Practices of a Woman in Exile:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ with your exile.

- Exile is about \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ something.
- Increase in \_\_\_\_\_.
- Seek the \_\_\_\_\_ of our exile.

2. She pursues \_\_\_\_\_ in her exile.

- The only way you are protected from the lies in exile is to know the \_\_\_\_\_.
- If you do not know truth, you will not \_\_\_\_\_ a lie.

3. She is \_\_\_\_\_ with her exile.

- We need to be patient with \_\_\_\_\_.

- We need to show patience with the \_\_\_\_\_ of exile.
- We need to show patience with \_\_\_\_\_.

## CONVERSATION GUIDE

### Video 2

**DAY 1:** What stood out to you in your first read-through of Haggai? What did you find confusing? Encouraging?

When have you recently walked through a season of discouragement? What brought you low?

**DAY 2:** Do you ever feel like you are not useful in God's work? Why? How does Scripture combat those feelings?

What do you see as your current mission assignment?

**DAY 3:** How do you relate to the Jews' backstory of discouragement, despair, and fear?

We usually relate discouragement to a difficult season of life, but have you ever experienced discouragement during a time when things seemed good? If so, what does that tell you about discouragement?

**DAY 4:** When you see how God has woven the story of the Messiah through the Old Testament, what does that tell you about God?

How do you see God weaving you into His story?

**DAY 5:** How has God used different people to grow and shape your Christian life?

When you look back over your life, how do you see the sovereignty of God at work?

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# Group Session 2

## BEFORE THE VIDEO

### Welcome and Prayer

## VIDEO NOTES

We have all had seasons of exile.

Our exile feels like we are isolated and not in the promised land we expected.

Ways we may experience exile:

- Sometimes our exile is geographical.
- Sometimes the exile we feel is physical.
- Sometimes our exile shows up in our relationships.
- There is purpose in exile.

Some of the purposes of exile:

- God may be allowing exile to discipline us.
- Another reason for our exile is that God could be pruning us.
- Sometimes God proves us in exile.

Three Practices of a Woman in Exile:

1. Participate with your exile.

- Exile is about construction not destruction.
- Plant something.
- Increase in relationship.
- Seek the welfare of our exile.

2. She pursues God in her exile.

- The only way you are protected from the lies in exile is to know the truth.
- If you do not know truth, you will not recognize a lie.

3. She is patient with her exile.

- We need to be patient with ourselves.



- We need to show patience with the process of exile.
- We need to show patience with God.

## CONVERSATION GUIDE

### Video 2

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# Group Session 3

## BEFORE THE VIDEO

### Welcome and Prayer

## VIDEO NOTES

The Samaritans were considered the \_\_\_\_\_ of Judah.

### Samaritan Strategies

1. They seek to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. They seek to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - *To be discouraged* means that \_\_\_\_\_ has been removed from you.
  - The word *discouraged* is also translated as *weaken your* \_\_\_\_\_.
3. They \_\_\_\_\_.
4. They \_\_\_\_\_ your work.

## CONVERSATION GUIDE

### Video 3

**DAY 1:** When have you found yourself in a constant state of frustration and discontent?

What caused it?

When have you seen your wrong priorities get in the way of God's purposes?

What does it mean to *consider your ways*?

**DAY 2:** Are you quick to start something but struggle to keep working until the end?

Explain.

What does it look like practically to love the Lord with "all your heart, soul, and mind" (Matt. 22:37)? Are you doing that? Explain.

**DAY 3:** How does our comfort and convenience tempt us to compromise what really matters?

When have you allowed a person or persons to influence you away from God or godly ways?

**DAY 4:** When was a time the enemy used accusation and lies to hurt you and hinder your spiritual growth? How did you deal with this attack?

How can the truth of Scripture help you keep moving forward, even in the midst of the slander?

**DAY 5:** Have you ever felt your work for the Lord is just a small thing of little importance? Why? And do you know now that it is not?

How can you encourage someone who feels the same way about what they are doing for God's kingdom?

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# Group Session 3

## BEFORE THE VIDEO

### Welcome and Prayer

## VIDEO NOTES

The Samaritans were considered the enemies of Judah.

### Samaritan Strategies

1. They seek to manipulate.
2. They seek to deflate.
  - *To be discouraged* means that courage has been removed from you.
  - The word *discouraged* is also translated as *weaken your hand*.
3. They escalate.
4. They frustrate your work.

## CONVERSATION GUIDE

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# GROUP Session 4

## BEFORE THE VIDEO

### Welcome and Prayer

## VIDEO NOTES

Sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ can lead to discouragement.

The prophet Jeremiah was called to what we might call a ministry of \_\_\_\_\_.

Jeremiah was proclaiming \_\_\_\_\_ that no one wanted to hear.

Jeremiah was \_\_\_\_\_ on God's Word.

Jeremiah was \_\_\_\_\_ to the ministry God called him to.

When we are discouraged, we can take courage because we were \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ by God.

Sometimes it takes courage to accept that we don't \_\_\_\_\_ His love; we didn't \_\_\_\_\_ His love; we can't \_\_\_\_\_ His love.

The word *consecrated* means that you are \_\_\_\_\_ for something sacred.<sup>1</sup>

Your \_\_\_\_\_ is not dependent on you.

When you are given a calling, it means God has given you something that is \_\_\_\_\_ to do.

When you intersect your \_\_\_\_\_ with your \_\_\_\_\_, and you find spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ there, chances are that's your calling.

## CONVERSATION GUIDE

### Video 4

- DAY 1:** In what ways do you struggle to be obedient to the Lord? Do you struggle more with the big things or the small things? Explain.  
What are some resources God has blessed you with to serve Him?  
How are you using all the resources God has given you to serve Him? Why is it so important to see yourself not as the owner but as the steward of those resources?
- DAY 2:** How have you experienced God disciplining you for your disobedience and blessing you for your obedience?  
What is your motivation to obey the Lord? What should it be? If love is not your current motivation to obey, how can it be?
- DAY 3:** Why is encouragement so important in our spiritual lives? Share the most recent time someone encouraged you in the Lord.  
When was the last time you were an encourager to someone? Why do we sometimes withhold our encouragement from others?
- DAY 4:** What's a token from your past that reminds you of God's goodness and faithfulness? Why is it important to have those things? Why is it important that we keep those things in the right perspective?
- DAY 5:** What are the many benefits and blessings of God's promise to always be with us? Do you really believe that God is present with you? If not, what's causing this doubt?

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# Group Session 4

## BEFORE THE VIDEO

### Welcome and Prayer

## VIDEO NOTES

Sometimes courage can lead to discouragement.

The prophet Jeremiah was called to what we might call a ministry of failure.

Jeremiah was proclaiming truth that no one wanted to hear.

Jeremiah was relying on God's Word.

Jeremiah was faithful to the ministry God called him to.

When we are discouraged, we can take courage because we were created, consecrated, and called by God.

Sometimes it takes courage to accept that we don't deserve His love; we didn't earn His love; we can't lose His love.

The word *consecrated* means that you are set apart for something sacred.<sup>1</sup>

Your holiness is not dependent on you.

When you are given a calling, it means God has given you something that is uniquely yours to do.

When you intersect your passion with your proficiency, and you find spiritual purpose there, chances are that's your calling.



## CONVERSATION GUIDE

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# Group Session 5

## BEFORE THE VIDEO

### Welcome and Prayer

## VIDEO NOTES

\_\_\_\_\_ is not one and done.

Discouragement is \_\_\_\_\_, but it's not real estate.

When you live in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, you live out the \_\_\_\_\_ of God for your life.

*Hannah* is the \_\_\_\_\_ version of *Anna*.

*Hannah* and *Anna* mean “\_\_\_\_\_” and “\_\_\_\_\_”<sup>1</sup>

The discouragement in your life may be the very thing that God is using to position you to \_\_\_\_\_ more \_\_\_\_\_.

### Three Courage Confessions

1. It is what it \_\_\_\_\_.

- \_\_\_\_\_ women learn to look at the reality that God has allowed them to experience and say, “OK. It is what it is.”

2. I \_\_\_\_\_ more than I see.

- The world desperately \_\_\_\_\_ what God has wired you to do.

3. I am never \_\_\_\_\_.

- When you feel the most alone, abandoned, or discouraged, that is when you are the \_\_\_\_\_ alone because God is near to the \_\_\_\_\_.

## CONVERSATION GUIDE

### Video 5

- DAY 1:** What is the comparison trap and how can it hinder your spiritual life?  
How can seeing things through the lens of what God can accomplish help you get out of the comparison trap?
- DAY 2:** How has God spiritually gifted and shaped you for ministry?  
How are you using your giftedness to honor the Lord and serve the church?
- DAY 3:** Is there something in the past you tried to do for God in your strength alone?  
How did that work out for you? Why are we so prone to try and accomplish things in our own power?  
How can we live stirred up by God's Spirit on a daily basis?
- DAY 4:** What words trigger a negative emotion or memory for you? What words do the same in a positive way?  
How can you rebrand those negative words to see them through God's perspective?
- DAY 5:** Do you struggle with fear? How does fear paralyze us spiritually?  
How can you practice God's presence and take action to combat the fear you experience?

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# Group Session 5

## BEFORE THE VIDEO

### Welcome and Prayer

## VIDEO NOTES

Courage is not one and done.

Discouragement is real, but it's not real estate.

When you live in the presence of God, you live out the purpose of God for your life.

*Hannah* is the Old Testament version of *Anna*.

*Hannah* and *Anna* mean "favor" and "grace."<sup>1</sup>

The discouragement in your life may be the very thing that God is using to position you to see Christ more clearly.

Three Courage Confessions

1. It is what it is.

- Courageous women learn to look at the reality that God has allowed them to experience and say, "OK. It is what it is."

2. I build more than I see.

- The world desperately needs what God has wired you to do.

3. I am never alone.

- When you feel the most alone, abandoned, or discouraged, that is when you are the least alone because God is near to the brokenhearted.

## CONVERSATION GUIDE

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# GROUP Session 6

## BEFORE THE VIDEO

### Welcome and Prayer

## VIDEO NOTES

The Hebrew word for *glory* is *kaved* which means “\_\_\_\_\_.”<sup>1</sup>

When God’s glory comes down, your \_\_\_\_\_ may come up.

#### Isaiah’s Issues

1. “Woe is \_\_\_\_\_.”

It is healthy for us to have a \_\_\_\_\_ of who we really are.

2. “I am \_\_\_\_\_.”

The Hebrew word in Hosea 4:6 for \_\_\_\_\_ is the same as the word for *undone* in Isaiah 6:5.<sup>2</sup>

3. “I am a man of \_\_\_\_\_ lips.”

When the glory falls and it shakes you up, it is to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ you.

## CONVERSATION GUIDE

### Video 6

**DAY 1:** When have you experienced a waiting season in your spiritual life? How did you endure, and what did God teach you during this time?

What are some ways you have seen God be faithful to His promises in your life?

**DAY 2:** Is knowing Jesus your greatest treasure and joy? If not, what is? If so, how does your life show evidence of that?

What “dumb idols” are you prone to settle for instead of totally following Jesus?

**DAY 3:** If we truly understand what it means to be the temple of the Holy Spirit, filled with the fullness of God, how should that change the way we live? How should that dictate the purpose and direction of our lives?

What seems to be the thing that most often keeps you from living filled up with the Lord? What actions or changes need to take place for you to live the abundant life in Christ?

**DAY 4:** Do you ever struggle in your spiritual life with the “if only” syndrome—*If only I could do . . . or If only I could give . . . then I'd really be useful to the Lord?* What “if only” do you struggle with?

How does knowing God has given us everything we need “for life and godliness” (2 Pet. 1:3, CSB) help us shed the weight of “if only”?

**DAY 5:** How would you explain the peace of God to someone who doesn't know Him?

Are you currently experiencing the peace of God? If so, how is God's peace helping you through your current situation? If not, what seems to be blocking God's peace in your life?

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# Group Session 6

## BEFORE THE VIDEO

### Welcome and Prayer

## VIDEO NOTES

The Hebrew word for *glory* is *kaved* which means “heavy.”<sup>1</sup>

When God’s glory comes down, your issues may come up.

#### Isaiah’s Issues

1. “Woe is me.”

It is healthy for us to have a right estimate of who we really are.

2. “I am undone.”

The Hebrew word in Hosea 4:6 for destroyed is the same as the word for *undone* in Isaiah 6:5.<sup>2</sup>

3. “I am a man of unclean lips.”

When the glory falls and it shakes you up, it is to cleanse and consecrate you.



## CONVERSATION GUIDE

### Video 6

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# Group Session 7

## BEFORE THE VIDEO

### Welcome and Prayer

## VIDEO NOTES

### The Four “I Cans” of Courageous Women

1. I can live \_\_\_\_\_.

The cost of \_\_\_\_\_ is far less than the price you pay when you live \_\_\_\_\_.

Living alert means to not be distracted and to live in \_\_\_\_\_.

2. I can stand \_\_\_\_\_ in the faith.

Courageous women go with what we \_\_\_\_\_—not with how we feel.

3. Be \_\_\_\_\_.

*Be courageous* in the original Greek, *andrizomai*, shows up one time in the New Testament and it literally means “\_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_.”<sup>1</sup>

To be really courageous, we need to have an \_\_\_\_\_ perspective.

Endurance is \_\_\_\_\_ in whatever “cross” God has allowed in your life.

In Hebrews 12:2 the word *despise* means “to consider it \_\_\_\_\_.”<sup>2</sup>

To be courageous, to “be a man,” do not allow your life to be governed by \_\_\_\_\_ but by faith.

4. I can be \_\_\_\_\_.

## CONVERSATION GUIDE

### Video 7

**DAY 1:** Do you ever try to use religious activity to mask your true spiritual condition?

Explain.

How is sin contagious? How have you seen your sin lead others astray?

How do we remedy our separation from God caused by our sin?

**DAY 2:** What does it mean to have a “marker day,” and what are some of yours? Why is it important that we have them?

What does it mean for God’s mercy to be severe at times? What difficult experiences in your life have shown themselves to actually be God’s grace and mercy at work?

**DAY 3:** Would you consider yourself to be a patient person? Why or why not? Why is patience such a needed attribute for your spiritual life?

Is there a spiritual “seed” you currently are waiting on to sprout and grow?

Explain.

**DAY 4:** How does encouragement give us courage?

What’s the difference between compliments and encouragement? Which do you think we need most? Why?

**DAY 5:** Why is finding your identity in Christ so important?

How would you define your identity in Christ?

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# Group Session 7

## BEFORE THE VIDEO

### Welcome and Prayer

## VIDEO NOTES

### The Four “I Cans” of Courageous Women

1. I can live alert.

The cost of vigilance is far less than the price you pay when you live distracted.

Living alert means to not be distracted and to live in community.

2. I can stand firm in the faith.

Courageous women go with what we know—not with how we feel.

3. Be courageous.

*Be courageous* in the original Greek, *andrizomai*, shows up one time in the New Testament and it literally means “be a man.”<sup>1</sup>

To be really courageous, we need to have an eternal perspective.

Endurance is active participation in whatever “cross” God has allowed in your life.

In Hebrews 12:2 the word *despise* means “to consider it lowly.”<sup>2</sup>

To be courageous, to “be a man,” do not allow your life to be governed by feelings but by faith.

4. I can be strong.

## CONVERSATION GUIDE

### Video 7

**DAY 1:** Do you ever try to use religious activity to mask your true spiritual condition?

Explain.

How is sin contagious? How have you seen your sin lead others astray?

How do we remedy our separation from God caused by our sin?

**DAY 2:** What does it mean to have a “marker day,” and what are some of yours? Why is it important that we have them?

What does it mean for God’s mercy to be severe at times? What difficult experiences in your life have shown themselves to actually be God’s grace and mercy at work?

**DAY 3:** Would you consider yourself to be a patient person? Why or why not? Why is patience such a needed attribute for your spiritual life?

Is there a spiritual “seed” you currently are waiting on to sprout and grow?

Explain.

**DAY 4:** How does encouragement give us courage?

What’s the difference between compliments and encouragement? Which do you think we need most? Why?

**DAY 5:** Why is finding your identity in Christ so important?

How would you define your identity in Christ?

Would you like to read my written summary of this video teaching? Just go to [jenniferrothschild.com/takecourage](http://jenniferrothschild.com/takecourage)