



## Expecting God

29 Sept

**Key Texts**  
Ezra 3:6-13  
Haggai 2:3-9  
John 16:33  
1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Talking through the message during the week helps turn what God is saying into action steps. Get connected with some folks who will listen and dig into the word together.

- Why do you think nostalgia has such a big draw on people (maybe especially baby boomers)?
- Can you go back to what it was like? Do we honestly want to?

### Read: Ezra 3:6-13

Ezra is writing as Israel starts to come back from exile. It's been 50+ years, everything that was valuable to them has been destroyed, their glorious temple is rubble.

- As the rebuilding of the temple starts, there are shouts of joy and loud weeping. Why these two responses?

At the core of the weeping was their identity issue.

- Who are these people apart from the temple?
- Why was the temple so vital?
- Where do you get your identity from?
- Why is so important that we get this right?

### Read: Haggai 2:3-9

**kavod** "its former glory" the weighty presence of God.

- What thoughts and emotions does this raise in you?
- God reminds Israel of his history (7-800 years since Egypt) with them & says: "*Do not fear.*" This is the most repeated command in the Bible.
- Why do we need this reminder? What are you afraid of?
- God uses the language of creation in this passage. He is doing something new. Remember this.

### Read: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

- Do you see the link between Haggai and 1 Corinthians? What is Paul saying? What does it mean that we are temples of the Spirit?
- What stirs in you when you read that the **shekinah** glory of God dwells in you?

### Next Steps:

God says: "*I love you*", "*I am for you*", "*I will free you from your fears*".

- Listen to God speak those words over you when you are afraid that God won't show up; when you're alone; when you're fearful that nothing will change.
- We are reading the Psalms. This week we are in **Psalms 122f**. As Israel did, use these Psalms as encouragement on the journey.