

## DARE TO BE DIFFERENT

Small Group Guide

Week 4: Haggai-Different ID

Series: Dare to be Different is a 4-week series where we will look at 4 ways in which students should strive to be different than the culture around them. Our memory verse for this series is Romans 12:2

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2*

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Scripture: Book of Haggai

Small Group Goal: To help students understand that they should find their ultimate identity in Christ.

Sermon Summary:

### **POINT 1: DIFFERENT PURPOSE**

The people of Israel were struggling to find their sense of purpose and identity after returning from exile. Just like them, we may at times feel lost or disconnected. But Haggai reminds us that our ultimate purpose lies in serving and glorifying God.

- "Thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways." Haggai 1:7
- Aligning our purposes to God's helps us rediscover that we are a chosen people
- Students are at the beginning of establishing the direction of their lives. What will the aim for?

### **POINT 2: DIFFERENT FOUNDATION**

The people of Israel were focused on their own homes. Haggai tasks them with building the temple FIRST. This is a reminder about laying a firm foundation. Before you build a home, lay a firm foundation centered around Christ.

- Foundations come before buildings. As students embark on constructing their lives, what is their foundation?
- Matthew 7:24-27 Our culture encourages you to construct a life that is focused on your comforts and on signaling your virtue to a lost world. This is a foundation of sand.

### **POINT 3: DIFFERENT HOPE AND FUTURE**

Haggai assures us of God's presence and blessings when we prioritize Him. Despite challenges, our identity is secure in His promises. We can trust that He has a plan for our lives that surpasses our understanding.

- The Bible assures us that suffering is normal, but Jesus is good. You will not avoid the storm, but he will be with you through the storm.
- Haggai 2:23 reminds us of the relationship that we have as a chosen people and the adopted children of God. (1 Peter 2:9)
- Prepare for tomorrow, build your own home, but at the end of the day where are you placing your ultimate hope? Lean on God's promises, knowing that our identity is rooted in being chosen by Him. As we trust His plan, we rediscover our true worth and purpose.

### **CLOSING: DIFFERENT IDENTITY**

In Romans 1:1 Paul finds his identity not his accomplishments or his membership in earthly groups (Roman citizenship), but instead his identity is built on belonging to God.

Our true identity is not about WHO we are but WHOSE we are. If we belong to God then we have a different purpose, lives built on a different foundation and a different hope and future.

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Small Group Questions: Below are some topics to guide your discussion and sample questions. You know your students best. What questions can guide them through these ideas to a better understanding of God and a clear next step for themselves?

**Different Purpose:** What are students aiming for? What drives them? What is their purpose?

*How does your faith in Jesus Christ influence your understanding of your life's purpose?*  
*In what ways do you believe God has uniquely gifted you to serve His kingdom?*  
*How can you use your talents and abilities to glorify God and further His purposes?*  
*Have you sought God's guidance in prayer and through His Word regarding your life's purpose?*  
*How do you think your life can be a testimony to others about the love and grace of Jesus Christ?*  
*Are you open to God's leading in terms of potential vocations or callings in your life?*  
*Have you considered how your studies and future career can be a means of advancing God's kingdom?*  
*What steps can you take to cultivate a deeper relationship with God, to better understand your purpose?*  
*How can you use your influence among peers to point them to Christ?*  
*Are there areas of your life where you feel called to grow and mature to better serve God?*  
*What steps can you take today to actively pursue and live out God's purpose for your life?*

**Different Foundation:** What foundation are students establishing for their lives?

*How do you understand the concept of building your life on a foundation of Christ?*  
*How does your relationship with Jesus Christ shape your values, priorities, and goals?*  
*Have you identified any areas of your life where you need to surrender more fully to Christ?*  
*How do you navigate challenges, trials, and temptations while relying on Christ as your foundation?*  
*Are there specific areas in your life where you feel called to serve and make a difference for Christ?*  
*How do you approach making significant life decisions with Christ at the center?*  
*Are there areas in your life where you need to repent and turn back to Christ as your foundation?*  
*Have you considered how your talents and passions can be used to glorify Christ and build His kingdom?*  
*Are there worldly influences or distractions that may be undermining your foundation in Christ?*  
*How do you envision your life's purpose aligning with God's plan for His kingdom?*  
*What practical steps can you take to continue building and strengthening your foundation on Christ?*

**Different Hope and Future:** Do students see that their hope and future centers around Christ?

*How would you define "hope" in the context of your faith in Jesus Christ?*  
*How does your hope in Christ influence your outlook on life and your future?*  
*What specific scriptures or passages provide you with assurance and confidence in your hope in Christ?*  
*In what ways does your hope in Christ impact the way you handle challenges and difficulties?*  
*Have you experienced moments in your life where your hope in Christ sustained you through trials?*  
*How do you stay grounded in your hope in Christ amidst the distractions and pressures of the world?*  
*Are there specific promises of God that you hold onto as a source of hope and encouragement?*  
*How do you navigate doubt and uncertainty while holding onto your hope in Christ?*  
*Have you considered how your hope in Christ can impact your career choices and life goals?*  
*What practical steps can you take to live out your hope in Christ in a way that impacts those around you?*

**Different Identity:** Our identity is not about WHO we are but WHOSE we are.

*Have you ever struggled with your self-worth and self-image?*  
*What kinds of things do your friends build their identity on as a foundation?*  
*How do you understand the concept of finding your identity in Christ?*  
*In what ways does your identity in Christ influence the way you view yourself and others?*  
*How does your identity in Christ influence your relationships with family, friends, and peers?*  
*Are there societal or cultural messages that challenge your understanding of your identity in Christ?*  
*Have you experienced moments of doubt or insecurity about your identity in Christ, and how did you overcome them?*  
*In what ways does your identity in Christ shape the way you use your talents and abilities?*