

## **‘Shaking the nations and shaking us’ – Haggai 2:1-9**

This week in our morning gatherings, we continued to explore biblically the prophetic word Malcolm shared with us earlier in the year (on the next page). We were looking at the idea of God shaking the nations and shaking us up.

### **Shaking the nations**

In Haggai, God promises to shake the nations, but before that, a simple instruction is given: “work, for I am with you” – the people were to get on with the task God has given because God was going to use it to impact people on a global scale.

### **World-changing moments**

Ask your group to think of as many examples as they can of moments in the Bible when something that happened led to a nation-shaking impact because God was at work. For each of them, ask these questions:

1. What is it that actually happened?
2. What went on to be the impact on the world (whether straight away or many years later)?

(To give some ideas, you could direct people to Gen 12:1-3, Ex 20:1-17, John 1:1-3, or Acts 2:1-4)

### **Our reach to the nations**

One of the things Malcolm share on Sunday is that for us to shake the nations it needs each of us to use the connections we have, the reach we have, to impact people. That can be in simple ways, through the normal interactions of our day, or through larger scale initiatives or opportunities.

1. What opportunities do we in this group have to reach to different nations? (That could be through people we know of different nationalities, different people groups, etc.) Try to get a feel for the ‘reach’ of just your Life Group members – how many ‘nations’ do you represent or reach?
2. How is it that we can make the most of the opportunities to have an impact in those areas?
3. As a church, how have we been good at making an impact on a wider scale in our world?
4. As a church, how could we increase our impact?

### **Shaking us**

In Haggai, before the promise is given about shaking the nations, the people are challenged and stirred up to get on with the work that God has given them in rebuilding the temple. They need to be changed and restored before the world can be through them.

1. Have a look again at the prophetic word, and read it with one another, but note down different parts of it that in some way speak of us being shaken, challenged or reformed.
2. How comfortable are we, honestly, with those parts of what we believe God has spoken to us?
3. Are there parts of it that challenge you more strongly than others?
4. What can we do to ensure we are open to being shaken up where we need it?

### **Making it personal**

It’s maybe easier to think about this for the church family, but encourage folk to let it be personal too.

1. When was the last time that God shook you up and released something new? How did it happen?
2. Are there parts of your life where it might be time for something fresh, new or transformed?
3. How are you making sure you are open to God’s restoring work in your life?

## **'Giving the Spirit Room' prophecy from Malcolm**

God wants to move in a fresh way in our church family. He wants to bring healing, hope and restoration to many here. He does not want to repeat the past, He wants to craft a better future than any of us have thought possible. He is leading us into a season when He will draw people from around the world to come and encounter Him here. He will transform lives, He will heal bodies, He will deliver the demonised. He will also challenge our comfort, strip back our pride, teaching us to depend upon Him again, leading us into new territory, upsetting our assumptions, removing our props, exposing our sin, purifying our intentions and transforming our Church life. We will learn new things, experience new power, break new ground and see more than we ever thought possible. He asks us to be willing, to be open and to be obedient.

He wants us to submit to Him, to trust Him and to learn the lessons of faith, courage and boldness. He will raise up pastors, plant churches and release gifts in and through this community. He will re-vitalise fading dreams, re-activate dormant gifts and re-envision tired hearts. He will not always give the answers that we expect or the things that we think we need, but He will give us the answers that we need and the things that will advance His Kingdom.

The next five years will be years when we see the unexpected, experience things that we have never experienced before, grow in fresh revelation and walk in a new intimacy with the Holy Spirit. He will shake the nations through what He does here. He will challenge the status quo through what He does here. He will bring the unwelcomed to us. He will speak directly into peoples' lives and hearts here. He will birth a new passion for the Kingdom amongst us.

The cost is simple: our lives, our willing obedience, our readiness to abandon our agendas for His. He invites us to the adventure of a life time. All He wants is our willingness. And if we say no, He will raise up another body to fulfil His purposes. The choice is ours.