

Fresh Start

New Heart

Session 2



**‘In this place I will grant
peace’**

Haggai 2:9

UP: Introduction

- Have you ever been given a fresh start? What did it mean?
- What was the outcome of this fresh start? How did it change your outlook?

IN: Explore

READ: **Ezra 3:1-13 & Haggai 1:1-2:9**

Context:

God’s people are released from exile and return home to Jerusalem. But what they find there disappoints them: everything lies in ruins. Zerubbabel, their governor, and Jeshua, their priest, with the support of Haggai, the prophet, eventually lead them to rebuild first the altar and then the temple.

What does the passage in Ezra say about the nature of the temple and ritual worship? What does the temple mean for us today?

How does the passage from Haggai both comfort and provoke? What effect does it have on them? And on you?

How does their discouragement affect their response to Haggai’s call?

How do these passages speak to you now?

OUT: Impact

- How do you benefit from knowing you are the ‘temple of the Spirit’ (1 Peter 2.5)? Who do you know who needs to know this?
- Can you think what your life might look like if it were of ‘greater glory’?
- Take time to pray for peace for yourself and others