

## News Story Summary

Nepal suffered through the strongest earthquake in 80 years on April 25<sup>th</sup>. The quake was a magnitude 7.8 and the death toll nears 5,000 (as of 4/29). The nation's capital of Kathmandu was hit extremely hard leaving much of the city buried in rubble. There was also a strong avalanche as a result of the quake that killed at least 18 on Mount Everest. This 7.8 magnitude earthquake is the same strength that rocked San Francisco in 1906. Relief organizations and rescue workers are working hard to dig through rubble and debris in hopes of finding more survivors. The mountainous terrain hinders relief efforts, making it difficult to reach some rural communities.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the sentence "Nepal Earthquake 2015.")

## Focus Attention

As the group arrives, draw attention to the earthquake in Nepal and the relief efforts to help the people affected by the disaster. When most of the group has arrived ask the question: "How do priorities change in a community when facing a disaster?"

Say: Sometimes tragic events demand us to refocus and figure out how to navigate complex issues. Our priorities must be adjusted to focus on what is vital for us to survive the tragedy.

Reflect: Direct the group to evaluate their priorities as they examine Haggai's message. Ask rhetorically: What priorities do you display in your life? What is truly most important right now? Is this what you need to be focusing on?

Transition: The Hebrews were not focusing on the priorities given by God and Haggai was called on to remind the Hebrews of their need to seek God first.

## Challenge

Once again, drawing attention to the devastation in Nepal. Lead the group to individually jot down the priorities that God is calling them to carry. Ask: Based on your life circumstances right now, on what areas of your life should you give priority?

Encourage the group to refocus by reminding them that God has (and will) use struggle in our life to realign our focus with the priorities God wants to have in our life.

Pray: Pray that God will reveal and lead us to the priorities He has for us this week. Also pray that our hearts and minds will be open to responding to these godly priorities.