
AND LET THEM **MAKE** ME
A SANCTUARY, THAT I MAY
DWELL IN THEIR MIDST.
Exodus 25:8
MAKE WAY
MAKE WAY *IN US*
MAKE WAY *THROUGH US*

Let's Prioritize | Haggai 1:2-11; 2:9

ICEBREAKER

What's something you keep saying you'll get around to doing, but somehow it never makes it to the top of your priority list?

OR

If someone looked at how you spent your time over the past week, what might they assume matters most to you?

SMALL GROUP WEEK 4 VIDEO (5:18)

Scan QR code below or on your HOST RESOURCES Card to watch this week's video.
Before beginning the rest of your discussion, take time as a group to respond to the question in the video.

INTRODUCTION

Read Haggai Ch. 1-2.

God desires to be at the center of our lives, shaping our priorities and how we live each day. But when we neglect God's presence through misplaced priorities and telling Him "not yet," we push Him to the margins of our lives. In Haggai, God's people were living in a contradiction. They had delayed rebuilding God's house while focusing on their own homes and priorities. The same can happen to us when other things begin taking God's rightful place. We find ourselves searching for satisfaction in things

that can never fully satisfy. Yet even in our dissatisfaction, God is graciously working to get our attention, inviting us to prioritize His presence before anything else. What stood out to you most from this week's message?

INTO THE WORD

Read Haggai 1:2–4 and James 4:13–17.
What do these passages reveal about the danger of delaying obedience to God? Why is it sometimes easier to say "not yet" rather than "yes" when God calls us to take a step of faith?

> **Host Guidance:**
> In Haggai, God's people weren't necessarily rejecting Him outright. Instead, they continued delaying what He had called them to do while prioritizing their own plans and desires. Similarly, James reminds us to submit our plans to God's will rather than assuming we'll always have another opportunity to respond. In the moment, saying "not yet" may seem easier because of our circumstances, a lack of faith, or simply a desire to pursue what we want. But saying "yes" to God is an act of faith and surrender, trusting that His will and plans are ultimately for our good. Encourage your group to recognize that making way for God means responding to His leading today rather than waiting for a more convenient time.

Read Haggai 1:4–9 and Ecclesiastes 2:10–11.
How can we recognize when good things in our lives have become more important than our relationship with God? Why do the things we work hardest to achieve sometimes leave us feeling unfulfilled? How might God use seasons of dissatisfaction to draw us back to Him?

> **Host Guidance:**
> In Haggai, God's people prioritized their own comfort and security while neglecting what mattered most to Him. The problem wasn't necessarily what they were pursuing, but the place those things occupied in their lives. Work, family, financial stability, and personal goals can all be good gifts from God, yet even good things can become misplaced priorities when they take God's place. Ecclesiastes reminds us that accomplishments and pleasures, no matter how fulfilling they may seem, cannot ultimately satisfy our deepest needs apart from God. While dissatisfaction isn't always the result of misplaced priorities, God can use it to get our attention and draw us back to Him. Encourage your group to consider how their time, attention, and resources reflect what they

value most and whether their current priorities are drawing them closer to God or pushing Him to the margins.

Read Matthew 6:33 and Psalm 16:8–11.
What does it practically look like to seek God's kingdom first while navigating the responsibilities and pressures of everyday life? How might consistently prioritizing God's presence change the way we approach our decisions, relationships, and personal goals?

Host Guidance:
Jesus teaches us to seek God's kingdom first, making Him the priority that shapes every other area of our lives. Psalm 16 reminds us that true joy and fulfillment are found in His presence. Putting God first isn't simply about adding more spiritual activities to an already busy schedule, but allowing our relationship with Him to influence our decisions, attitudes, and priorities. This might mean beginning our day in prayer, choosing obedience over convenience, or evaluating whether our personal goals align with God's purposes. Encourage your group to consider what it would look like to intentionally place God at the center of their everyday lives rather than fitting Him around everything else.

Read Haggai 2:9 and 1 Corinthians 3:16.
What do these passages reveal about the significance of God's presence among His people? How might understanding His desire to dwell with us change what we're willing to surrender or rearrange to make Him our priority?

Host Guidance:
In Haggai, God promised that the future glory of His house would be greater than before and that He would bring peace, emphasizing the significance of His presence among His people and revealing that His desires are for our good. While the Israelites were called to rebuild a physical temple, 1 Corinthians reveals that today, God's temple is not a building. Those who have surrendered their lives to Jesus are God's temple, and His Spirit dwells in them. What an incredible gift! Prioritizing God isn't about gaining more of His Spirit but allowing Him to be Lord over every area of our lives. Encourage your group to consider how the reality of God's presence in their lives should lead to greater surrender, obedience, and a willingness to rearrange their priorities around Him.

EMBRACE AND EMBODY

Prioritizing God involves more than simply acknowledging His importance. It requires a willingness to surrender our own plans and desires to follow His leading. While this isn't always easy, God's invitation is rooted in His love for us and His desire for us to experience the fullness of life found only in Him.

Create space for the group to reflect on and share the following: Where might God be inviting you to reconsider your priorities? What is one practical change you could make this week to give Him greater priority in your life?

PRAYER PROMPT

Close by praying for one another, asking God to reveal any areas where other priorities have gradually taken His place. Pray for hearts that are willing to respond with obedience rather than delay, and for wisdom to recognize the difference between good things and what matters most. Ask God to help each person trust Him with their time, relationships, responsibilities, and resources, and that He would deepen their desire for His presence and give them faith to follow wherever He leads.

This Week's Next Right Step — Seek God Daily:
Read Haggai 1:2-11 and pray. Ask God to reveal any areas where you have personally moved Him to the margins of your life (Examples: prayer, devotions, time, relationships, work, finances, thoughts, pleasure, rest, etc.). Take time to listen to the Holy Spirit and respond to His leading by taking a step to make God the priority in that area.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- This week, discuss potential serving opportunities for your group. Visit the Fairhaven app to learn more about Christmas Gift, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, and other opportunities to serve as a group!
- Encourage group members to check out the *Make Way* tab in the Fairhaven app to access helpful resources including prayer guides, reflection questions, Participant Guides, and small group videos.
- Don't forget to post a weekly photo of your group in your campus Facebook group for a chance to win a pizza party.

Don't forget to take attendance for your group!