

WEST RIDGE GROUPS

Group Member Discussion Guide

Week of July 26, 2026

CHECK-IN

How was your week? What was the high part of your week? What was the low part of your week? What can we celebrate together?

MESSAGE SUMMARY

This week we concluded our One Hit Wonders: Minor Prophets series by studying the book of Haggai. Pastor Brian reminded us that putting God first puts everything else in its proper place. After returning from exile, God's people began rebuilding the temple, but opposition and discouragement caused the work to stop. Sixteen years later, they had become busy building their own lives while continuing to postpone what God had called them to do. Haggai challenged them to "think carefully about your ways" and recognize that spiritual drift often begins not with open rebellion, but with delayed obedience and misplaced priorities. When the people finally responded to God in obedience, He graciously reminded them, "I am with you." In the same way, God calls us to examine what occupies first place in our lives, respond to what He has already made clear, and trust His presence as we take our next step of obedience.

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What did you find most compelling or challenging about the message this week? Share your thoughts with the group.
2. **Read Haggai 1:2–4; James 4:17**
Pastor Brian said, "Spiritual drift rarely begins with defiance. It usually begins with delay." What are some ways good things and legitimate responsibilities can gradually push God out of first place? Is there something God has already made clear that you have been tempted to keep saying "not now" to?
3. **Read Haggai 1:5–7; Matthew 6:19–21**
God twice tells the people to "think carefully about your ways." They were busy and productive, yet they remained deeply unsatisfied. What are some things we can look to for satisfaction, security, or identity that only God can ultimately provide? How can dissatisfaction sometimes reveal that our priorities have gotten out of order?
4. **Read Matthew 6:31–33; Haggai 1:7**
Pastor Brian emphasized that putting God first does not mean neglecting our families, work, finances, or responsibilities; it means bringing them under God's direction. What is the difference between simply adding God to an already busy life and truly seeking His kingdom first? What might change if God were genuinely first in the way you use your time, money, energy, and attention?

5. Read Haggai 1:8, 12; James 1:22–25

The people had spent sixteen years knowing what God wanted but postponing their response. Pastor Brian reminded us, “Feeling convicted is not the same as obeying.” Why can knowing what God wants sometimes be easier than actually doing it? Where might God be calling you to stop explaining, waiting, or making excuses and simply take the next step of obedience?

6. Read Haggai 1:12–14; John 14:15–18

When the people finally obeyed, God responded with the assurance, “I am with you.” How does knowing that God is with us change the way we approach difficult acts of obedience? As you “think carefully about your ways,” what may need to move out of first place so God can have the place that belongs to Him? What specific next step can you take this week?

WRAP-UP

Prayer — How can we be praying for you? What are you excited about right now? What are you worried about?

It is important to be growing in our relationship with Jesus and one another - what is one next step you can take this week to grow? Share with the group and commit to holding one another accountable.

What does it look like to hold each other accountable? It can be as simple as a text or phone call during the week. Hebrews 10:25 encourages us to meet regularly and to encourage one another on a regular basis.

Example: “Hey _____, you indicated in group this week that you were struggling at work with being light in a dark place. You said that your next step was to start a conversation with someone at work this week around the topic of faith. How did that go?”

PERSONAL NOTES

This week, my next step is:

This week, I am going to check in on (name):

This week, my Bible reading will be (e.g., Haggai 1–2; Matthew 6; James 1):