SELAH

Holes in the Purse

From This Day On · Week 1
November 9–13, 2026

MONDAY
WANTED BY GOD

TUESDAY
NOT ALONE

WEDNESDAY
WELCOMED HOME

THURSDAY
STIRRED AWAKE

FRIDAY
BUILT INTO GOD'S HOUSE

Each day you'll write a few things down. A notebook works, and so does the notes app on your phone.

NW Hills
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

MONDAY

WANTED BY GOD.

STOP

It's Monday, and the week has already started asking things of you. Maybe your phone was buzzing before you got out of bed. For the next few minutes, none of that needs you. In Haggai's first message, God tells a busy city, "Give careful thought to your ways." That's what this time is for. It's okay to stop.

- What's on your mind? Notice your thoughts. Is there a distraction that you need to set aside for a few minutes during this quiet time? Is there something specific you feel God is asking you to pay attention to?
- What's on your heart? What are you carrying into this space? A specific emotion, a person, a weight you didn't realize you were holding?
- Describe how you currently feel in just one word.

Write your answers down.

EXHALE

Breathing is something you've done all morning without thinking about it. For the next couple of minutes, do it on purpose, and slow it down. If you find it hard to focus, count slowly to four as you breathe in and slowly to six as you breathe out, letting the count steady your pace.

As you inhale, pray, "Lord, you want me near…"

As you exhale, pray, "…I'm making room for you."

LOOK

God's people had been telling him "not yet" for nearly two decades. Then God spoke through Haggai, and within a few weeks they were back at work on his house. That's what God's Word can do for people who are stuck. Read through these verses slowly two times before moving on.

> [5] *Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways.* [6] *You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it."* [7] *This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways.* [8] *Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored," says the LORD.*

Haggai 1:5–8 NIV

ASK

God wants to be with you. When he called his people to rebuild his house, he didn't say, "Build it so I'll make it rain." He said, "so that I may take pleasure in it." That house was where God lived among his people. He wanted to enjoy being with them, and he feels the same way about you.

Verse 6 might sound a lot like your month. If it does, hear this before you go on. Haggai knew what his city's hard times meant because God told him. That was God's word to one community about one thing he had named. It isn't a way to read your bank account. Jesus said your Father "sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous" (Matthew 5:45). Rain isn't a report card. If you're in a dry season because of a diagnosis, a layoff, or grief that won't lift, don't read it as a verdict from God. And if it's depression or anxiety, that's a reason to get help, not a sign you failed God.

- Read the list in verse 6 again. Which line sounds most like your life right now?
- In Hebrew, “Give careful thought to your ways” is literally “Set your heart on your ways.” Think about where your best hours went last week, and where your leftovers went. What does that say you care about most?
- Does it surprise you that God wants to “take pleasure” in being with his people? Why or why not?
- What’s one thing on your “when things settle down” list that’s about God? What would it look like to start it this week? When you do, write down the date.

Write a one-sentence prayer thanking God that he wants to be with you. Or, if that’s hard to believe right now, write a short prayer asking him to show you.

HEAR

If this isn’t something you normally do, it might feel strange. That’s okay. Part of you may already be thinking about the next thing on today’s list. It’s easy to rush through a time like this so you can check it off and move on. Don’t rush this part. For a couple of minutes, stop talking and listen. You might pray, “I’m listening, God. Speak to me.” Whatever comes to mind, write it down.

TUESDAY

NOT ALONE.

STOP

A lot can happen in a day. Since yesterday morning you've probably answered messages, made decisions, and picked up a few things you didn't expect to carry. Bring all of it with you, and set it down for a few minutes. Nobody needs you to fix anything right now.

- What's on your mind? Notice your thoughts. Is there a distraction that you need to set aside for a few minutes during this quiet time? Is there something specific you feel God is asking you to pay attention to?
- What's on your heart? What are you carrying into this space? A specific emotion, a person, a weight you didn't realize you were holding?
- Describe how you currently feel in just one word.

Write your answers down.

EXHALE

Fear makes our breathing short and shallow. The people in today's reading were afraid, and maybe you are too. Slow breaths help your body settle. Let each breath out last a little longer than the breath in. If you find it hard to focus, count slowly to four as you breathe in and slowly to six as you breathe out, letting the count steady your pace.

> *As you inhale, pray, "In the dry times, you're with me…"*
>
> *As you exhale, pray, "…so I don't have to be afraid."*

LOOK

When God's people were scared, these are the words he gave them. People have held on to them in hospital rooms and through long nights for about twenty-five hundred years. They're short enough to remember. Read these verses slowly two times before moving on.

> 12 *Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the whole remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the* LORD *their God and the message of the prophet Haggai, because the* LORD *their God had sent him. And the people feared the* LORD. 13 *Then Haggai, the* LORD*'s messenger, gave this message of the* LORD *to the people: "I am with you," declares the* LORD.

Haggai 1:12–13 NIV

ASK

God is with you. When his people turned back to him, scared of what he might say, his first words were "I am with you." No lecture. No probation period.

Notice what hadn't happened yet. They'd said yes, but nothing had been built. The drought wasn't over. God's presence came before the work and before the harvest. Nobody earned their way back with a hammer, and you don't have to fix your life before God comes close.

- Verse 12 says "the people feared the LORD." Why do you think they were afraid?
- If you've been away from God for a while, what are you afraid he'll say when you come back?
- God said the same thing to scared people in Isaiah 41:10: "So do not fear, for I am with you." Where do you need to hear that today?
- What would change about today if you believed God is with you in it?

Write a short prayer telling God where you need him today. Or, if God feels far away right now, tell him that, and ask him to help you notice that he's there.

HEAR

Most people never hear God speak out loud. That doesn't mean he isn't speaking, or that he isn't here. Today, don't wait for something dramatic. Sit quietly with the four words God gave his people: "I am with you." You might pray, "You're here, God. I'm listening." Whatever comes to mind, write it down.

WEDNESDAY

WELCOMED HOME.

STOP

You're halfway through the week. By now your good intentions may have run into real life. Maybe you've already missed a day of this. That's okay. There's nothing to catch up on, and nobody is keeping score. You're here now.

- What's on your mind? Notice your thoughts. Is there a distraction that you need to set aside for a few minutes during this quiet time? Is there something specific you feel God is asking you to pay attention to?
- What's on your heart? What are you carrying into this space? A specific emotion, a person, a weight you didn't realize you were holding?
- Describe how you currently feel in just one word.

Write your answers down.

EXHALE

The son in today's story came home with a speech ready. A breath prayer is the opposite of a speech. It's short and honest, and you don't have to get it right. Let your breathing slow down. If you find it hard to focus, count slowly to four as you breathe in and slowly to six as you breathe out, letting the count steady your pace.

> *As you inhale, pray, "Father, you run to meet me…"*
>
> *As you exhale, pray, "…I'm coming home as I am."*

LOOK

Jesus told this story to religious people who didn't like the company he kept. He could have given them a lecture about God. He told them a story instead, because a story can get past our defenses. Read these verses slowly two times before moving on.

> [20] *So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.* [21] *The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'* [22] *But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.*

Luke 15:20–22 NIV

ASK

God runs toward you. The son came home hoping to work his way back in, but his father saw him from a long way off and ran to him. The hug came before the speech.

Look at what the son had planned to say. Back in verse 19, his speech ended with "make me like one of your hired servants." He never got to that line. His father interrupted with a robe, a ring, and sandals.

If your own father never ran toward you, this story might be hard to read. Jesus didn't tell it to describe every dad. He told it to show you what God is like.

- What "speech" have you rehearsed for God? What do you think you'd have to say or do before he'd be glad to see you?
- The father saw his son "while he was still a long way off." What does that tell you about where the father's attention had been?

- The robe, the ring, and the sandals were the father's way of saying, "You're my son." What would it look like to live today as God's son or daughter instead of his hired help?
- Is there a part of your life you've been trying to clean up before you bring it to God? What would it look like to bring it as it is?

Write a short prayer that skips the speech and tells God you're coming home. Or, if you can't picture God running toward you, write a prayer asking him to show you what he's like.

HEAR

When we've been away from God, we tend to fill the quiet with our own words. We explain. We make promises. We start rehearsing again. Today, let God have the last word. You don't need to say anything else. Sit quietly and picture being welcomed home. You might pray, "Here I am, Father. I'm listening." Whatever comes to mind, write it down.

THURSDAY

STIRRED AWAKE.

STOP

You may be getting the hang of this by now. That's good. But anything we do every day can turn into one more box to check. So be intentional today. Silence your notifications, take a minute to settle, and come to this time on purpose.

- What's on your mind? Notice your thoughts. Is there a distraction that you need to set aside for a few minutes during this quiet time? Is there something specific you feel God is asking you to pay attention to?
- What's on your heart? What are you carrying into this space? A specific emotion, a person, a weight you didn't realize you were holding?
- Describe how you currently feel in just one word.

Write your answers down.

EXHALE

The Hebrew word for "spirit" in today's reading can also mean "breath" or "wind," and it shows up three times in verse 14. As you breathe slowly today, let each breath remind you that God can wake up what's gone quiet in you. If you find it hard to focus, count slowly to four as you breathe in and slowly to six as you breathe out, letting the count steady your pace.

As you inhale, pray, "Wake me up again, God…"

As you exhale, pray, "…and stir my spirit today."

LOOK

These verses come with a date stamp. Haggai tells you the exact day the work started. The Bible's story happened to real people, in a real city, on a real day. Read these verses slowly two times before moving on.

> 14 *So the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people. They came and began to work on the house of the LORD Almighty, their God,* 15 *on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month.*

Haggai 1:14–15 NIV

ASK

God wakes his people up, and he doesn't abandon his work. The same God who said "I am with you" stirred up their spirits, and they came and went to work.

Look at the order. On Tuesday you read that they obeyed and that God said, "I am with you." Then God stirred them up. They'd already said yes, and God turned that yes into work.

If you don't feel stirred up today, that doesn't mean God has passed you by. Feelings come and go, and "I am with you" came before anybody felt ready. And if your tiredness runs deeper than a bad night's sleep, if it's depression or anxiety, that's a reason to get help, not a sign you failed God.

- Verse 14 names the governor, the high priest, and "the whole remnant of the people." Why do you think Haggai names everyone, not only the leaders?
- When the first group left Babylon to go home and build, Ezra describes them as "everyone whose heart God had moved" (Ezra 1:5). Now God was waking them up again. When has God woken you up before? What has gone quiet in you since then?
- They started "on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month," before the drought was over. What have you been waiting to start until things settle down?
- What's one small thing you could do today, even if nothing about your circumstances has changed yet?

Write a short prayer asking God to stir up your spirit for whatever he has next. Or, if you're too tired to feel much of anything, write a prayer that tells him so. He knows how to wake up tired people.

HEAR

Your mind will probably wander in the quiet. When it does, it's tempting to scold yourself or give up. Don't do either. A wandering mind is normal. When you notice it, come back to the four words from Tuesday: "I am with you." Let them bring you back, and keep listening. You might pray, "I'm here, God. Wake me up to what you're saying." Whatever comes to mind, write it down.

FRIDAY

BUILT INTO GOD'S HOUSE.

STOP

It's Friday. The week is almost behind you, and the weekend is close. Before your mind jumps to Saturday, take these few minutes. If you've written anything down this week, look back over it, and notice what God has been doing.

- What's on your mind? Notice your thoughts. Is there a distraction that you need to set aside for a few minutes during this quiet time? Is there something specific you feel God is asking you to pay attention to?
- What's on your heart? What are you carrying into this space? A specific emotion, a person, a weight you didn't realize you were holding?
- Describe how you currently feel in just one word.

Write your answers down.

EXHALE

At the end of a long week, a lot of us breathe like we're still running. Back in Haggai 1:9, God says each of them is "busy" with their own house. In Hebrew, that's a running word. Today, stop running for a few minutes. Let your shoulders drop and your breathing slow down. If you find it hard to focus, count slowly to four as you breathe in and slowly to six as you breathe out, letting the count steady your pace.

As you inhale, pray, "You're building us together, Lord…"

As you exhale, pray, "…make your home in us."

LOOK

Paul wrote this letter as a prisoner. He couldn't sit in a room with the people he was writing to, but he wanted them to know what God was building out of them. Churches have been reading his words to each other for almost two thousand years. Read these verses slowly two times before moving on.

> 21 *In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.* 22 *And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.*

Ephesians 2:21–22 NIV

ASK

You're part of God's house. In Haggai's day, God's house was a building on a hill. Now God lives among his people by his Spirit, and he's building you into that house together with everyone who belongs to Jesus.

Paul was writing to people who weren't Jewish, people who'd been kept at a distance from God's temple. Now God was building them right into his house. We didn't take this over. We got let in.

If church has hurt you before, "built together" might sound more like a risk than a promise. That hurt is real, and God sees it. You can start with one safe person.

- Paul says "together" twice in these two verses. Why do you think he keeps saying it?
- Pastor Justin said, "This building is where God's house meets on Sunday mornings." How would it change your Sunday to see the people around you as God's house?
- Who could you welcome this weekend the way God welcomed you?
- Monday asked about one thing on your "when things settle down" list that's about God. Have you started it? If you

have, write down the date. If you haven't, there's no lecture waiting. What would it take to start today?

Write a prayer for the people you'll worship with on Sunday, by name if you can. Or, if you don't feel like you belong in God's house yet, write a short prayer asking him to show you your place in it.

HEAR

Some of us go quiet with God because we assume he's disappointed in us. Maybe you missed a day this week, or you haven't started the thing you meant to start. God isn't annoyed with you. He's building a house, and he wants you in it. This practice doesn't have to end today, either. You can keep stopping like this next week. For now, sit quietly and listen. You might pray, "I'm listening for you, God. Speak to me." Whatever comes to mind, write it down.