SELAH

Like Nothing at All

From This Day On · Week 2
November 16–20, 2026

MONDAY
SEEN BY GOD

TUESDAY
WATCHED WITH JOY

WEDNESDAY
ENCOURAGED

THURSDAY
PROMISED PEACE

FRIDAY
SHOWN HIS GLORY

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

SEEN BY GOD.

STOP

It's Monday. If you spent last week with these pages, welcome back. If this is your first time, you haven't missed anything. Your week already has a list, and for the next few minutes it can wait. 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

When we look at something that disappoints us, we usually sigh. A sigh is a long breath out, and it can be one of the most honest prayers we have. Today, let your sighs slow down and turn toward God. 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 see what I see, Lord…"

As you exhale, pray, "…and you don't look away."

LOOK

Most of today's reading is questions. God could have opened with a speech. Instead, he asked his people how things looked to them. Read these verses slowly two times before moving on, and hear the questions as if they were asked of you.

> [1] *In the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the* LORD *came by the hand of Haggai the prophet:* [2] *"Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to all the remnant of the people, and say,* [3] *'Who is left among you who saw this house in its former glory? How do you see it now? Is it not as nothing in your eyes?*

Haggai 2:1–3 ESV

ASK

God sees what you see. He asked the oldest people in Jerusalem how the new temple looked to them, and then he said it out loud for them: like nothing. He didn't tell them they were wrong.

If you're missing something today, hear this before the questions. Pastor Justin said it Sunday: "Grief isn't a sin. Missing what you had isn't a sin."

When the new foundation was laid years earlier, the older people who had seen the first temple "wept aloud" (Ezra 3:12). God didn't scold them for it. And if what you miss is a person, nobody is asking you to move on.

- God asks, "How do you see it now?" If he asked you that about your life this morning, what would you say?
- What's your "former glory"? It might be a season, a church, a relationship, or a version of yourself that you keep comparing today to.

- Nostalgia turns dangerous when the past stops being different and starts being superior. Where has the past grown so big that what's in front of you looks small?
- Is there something God is doing right now that you've been calling "nothing"?

Write a short, honest prayer telling God how things look to you right now. Or, if it feels like God hasn't noticed what you're carrying, tell him that, and ask him to show you that he sees.

HEAR

If you've had seasons when God felt close, it's easy to measure this quiet against them. It might not feel like camp, or like the year you couldn't put your Bible down. That's okay. This time doesn't have to measure up to anything.

Sit quietly and listen. You might pray, "God, you see me. Help me see what you see." Whatever comes to mind, write it down.

TUESDAY

WATCHED WITH JOY.

STOP

Since yesterday, you've probably done a long list of small things nobody noticed: an email answered, a lunch packed, a hard conversation you didn't avoid. Today's reading is about a God who notices small things. Bring yesterday with you, and set it down for a few minutes.

- 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

You'll take thousands of breaths today, and you won't notice most of them. Each one is small, and you can't live without them. For the next couple of minutes, notice them. 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 love to watch me start…"*
>
> *As you exhale, pray, "…so I'll take one small step."*

LOOK

A few months after Haggai's message, God sent a second prophet, Zechariah, to the same tired builders. They needed to hear it again, so God said it again. Some of us need to hear things more than once, too. Read this verse slowly two times before moving on.

> 10 *Do not despise these small beginnings, for the LORD rejoices to see the work begin, to see the plumb line in Zerubbabel's hand.*

Zechariah 4:10 NLT

ASK

God is glad when you start. Zechariah doesn't say the LORD rejoices when the work is finished. He rejoices "to see the work begin." His joy isn't a reward for how much you get done. It's how he feels about a beginning.

Starting small doesn't mean you have to be done grieving. Yesterday you read about the older people who wept when the foundation was laid. Others shouted for joy that same day, and no one could tell the two sounds apart (Ezra 3:12–13). You can miss what you had and still pick up one stone.

- Pastor Justin put it this way: "Feeling like it's small isn't a sin. Despising it is." What's the difference between feeling small and despising small?
- Where have you been comparing lately? Your prayer life? Your place in this church? Your health, your family, or your work?
- Don't try to build the whole building. What's one stone you could set in that place this week?
- Picture God watching you take that step and being glad. What makes that hard to believe?

Write a one-sentence prayer naming the small thing you'll start, and thank God that he's glad to see it begin. Or, if

starting anything feels like too much right now, write a prayer asking God to show you what he has already started in you.

HEAR

It's easy to think a few minutes of quiet is too small to count. Today's verse says otherwise. Small beginnings are the ones God is glad to see.

Give him the next few minutes, even if they feel like a very small thing. You might pray, "These few minutes are yours, God. I'm listening." Whatever comes to mind, write it down.

WEDNESDAY

ENCOURAGED.

STOP

It's Wednesday, the middle of the week, when energy tends to run low. If you're tired, you don't have to hide it here. You don't need to sound strong to sit with God. Come as you are, and stop for a few minutes.

- 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

When someone tells us to be strong, most of us clench. The strength in today's reading doesn't come from bracing. It comes from God being there. 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, "Your Spirit stays with me, God…"

As you exhale, pray, "…so I will not fear."

LOOK

Today's reading borrows words God had used before. He told Joshua to be strong after Moses died, and David told Solomon the same thing when he handed him the plans for the first temple. When God repeats himself across centuries, it's worth slowing down. Read these verses slowly two times before moving on.

> [4] *Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, declares the* LORD. *Be strong, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land, declares the* LORD. *Work, for I am with you, declares the* LORD *of hosts,* [5] *according to the covenant that I made with you when you came out of Egypt. My Spirit remains in your midst. Fear not.*

Haggai 2:4–5 ESV

ASK

God is with you, and his Spirit hasn't left. His people looked at the rubble and saw "nothing." God answered with himself: "I am with you." In Haggai's Hebrew, the word for "nothing" is ayin, and the word for "I" is ani. They sound almost the same, and they mean opposite things.

God doesn't say "be strong" because they had it in them. He says it because he's there: "for I am with you."

If God hasn't felt close lately, that doesn't mean he left. Feelings come and go. Grief and depression can turn the volume all the way down. His Spirit "remains" either way.

- God says "be strong" to the governor, to the high priest, and to "all you people of the land." Why do you think he made sure nobody was left out?
- God points them back to "when you came out of Egypt." His people had no temple then, only tents in the desert, and God was with them anyway. When have you seen God show up back when you had very little?

- Where do you need to hear “Fear not” today?
- You don’t have to get back to where God was. Is there a season you’ve been trying to get back to? What would change if you believed God is with you here?

Write a short prayer naming the place where you need courage today, and thank God that his Spirit is there with you. Or, if God feels far away right now, write a prayer that tells him so, and ask him to help you trust that he hasn’t gone anywhere.

HEAR

Sometimes you sit in the quiet and hear nothing at all. It’s tempting to decide that God must be somewhere else. On Monday we read about what looked like “nothing.” Silence isn’t nothing.

God’s Spirit “remains in your midst,” whether the quiet feels full or empty. You might pray, “Your Spirit is here. Help me notice you.” Whatever comes to mind, write it down.

THURSDAY

PROMISED PEACE.

STOP

By Thursday, a new habit can start running on autopilot. And with Thanksgiving a week away, your mind may already be setting the table. Notice that, and then set it aside for a few minutes. 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

Today's reading ends with a promise about a place: "in this place I will give peace." You're in a place right now, too. Maybe a kitchen, a car, or an office. Let your breathing settle right where you are. 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 this place, you give peace…"

As you exhale, pray, "…and make what's broken whole."

LOOK

Some promises in the Bible came true within weeks. This one unfolded over centuries, and part of it is still unfolding. Promises like that are meant to be held, not rushed. Read these verses slowly two times before moving on.

> [6] *For thus says the LORD of hosts: Yet once more, in a little*
> *while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea*
> *and the dry land.* [7] *And I will shake all nations, so that the*
> *treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house*
> *with glory, says the LORD of hosts.* [8] *The silver is mine, and*
> *the gold is mine, declares the LORD of hosts.* [9] *The latter*
> *glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the*
> *LORD of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares*
> *the LORD of hosts.*

Haggai 2:6–9 ESV

ASK

God is still at work, and the best glory isn't behind you. Listen to who does the work in these verses: "I will shake," "I will fill," "I will give peace." The word for peace is shalom. It means everything made whole again.

Hear what this doesn't mean. "The silver is mine" isn't God asking for your money, and it isn't a promise of more of it. He's telling them the glory doesn't depend on it.

And the best glory isn't behind you, but that doesn't mean next year will be your best year. The best glory is God himself.

Next Thursday is Thanksgiving, and some of you are already dreading an empty chair. This promise doesn't ask you to move on. Your grief is welcome. We grieve with hope.

- In this promise, glory means more than treasure. It's the same word used when God's presence filled the tabernacle in the desert and Solomon's temple on dedication day. Where would you most like to know God is present right now?
- Solomon prayed, "heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built!" (1 Kings 8:27). If even the glory days couldn't hold God, what does that say about the glory days you miss?

- Verse 9 promises peace “in this place,” the place that looked like nothing. What place in your life looks like nothing right now? What would it look like to ask God for his shalom there?

Write a short prayer asking God for his peace in one specific place in your life. Or, if you’re grieving this week, write a prayer that tells God who you miss, and ask him to hold you until everything is made whole.

HEAR

A promise about the future can send our minds running ahead to next week, the holidays, and everything on the list. God spoke this promise to people standing in rubble, in their present moment. Stay in this one for a few minutes.

You might pray, “Quiet my mind, Lord. I want to hear you.” Whatever comes to mind, write it down.

FRIDAY

SHOWN HIS GLORY.

STOP

You made it to Friday. Before the weekend starts, take a look back. On Monday you told God how things looked to you. Read what you wrote, and notice anything that looks different now. Then set it all down for a few minutes.

- 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 Word became flesh. That means Jesus had lungs. He breathed the same air his neighbors breathed, the way you're breathing now. As you slow down, let each breath remind you how close God came. 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, "Jesus, you moved in with us…"

As you exhale, pray, "…let me see your glory today."

LOOK

John wasn't passing along a rumor. He walked with Jesus, ate with him, stood near the cross, and saw him alive again. When he writes "we have seen his glory," he's telling you what he saw. Read this verse slowly two times before moving on.

> 14 *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

John 1:14 ESV

ASK

In Jesus, God moved in. The word John uses for “dwelt” means he pitched his tent among us. Haggai’s message came during the Feast of Booths, when God’s people lived in shelters for a week. When the glory finally came, God pitched a tent.

Haggai asked, “Who is left among you who saw this house in its former glory?” Centuries later, John answers, “We have seen his glory.” And God isn’t finished. Near the end of the Bible, John hears that God “will wipe away every tear from their eyes” (Revelation 21:4). Every tear, including the ones you brought on Monday.

- To a lot of people, Jesus “looked like nothing at all.” Why do you think God showed his glory in such an ordinary-looking way?
- John says Jesus came “full of grace and truth.” Which of those two do you need more right now?
- On Tuesday you named one small thing to start. Did you start it? If you did, write down what happened. If you haven’t yet, there’s no lecture waiting. Today can be a small beginning, too.
- God lives among his people now by his Spirit. This weekend, who’s someone from a different generation you could ask what God is doing in their life?

Write a prayer thanking God that he didn’t stay far away. Or, if you haven’t seen much of his glory lately, write a short prayer asking him to open your eyes to where he’s already at work.

HEAR

You might finish this week feeling like nothing much happened. That's okay. Small isn't nothing, and neither is a week of stopping to listen. Next week brings new pages, but you don't need a page to stop.

For now, sit quietly. You might pray, "Jesus, you're here. Show me what you're doing." Whatever comes to mind, write it down.