



4Ws DON'T WAIT TO PUT GOD FIRST

October 11, 2026

WORSHIP

Suggested worship songs: House of The Lord, Cornerstone, Glory Belongs, It Really Is Amazing Grace, Sa'yo Lamang, One Day (When We All Get To Heaven)

WELCOME

If you had one extra hour every day, how would you spend it? Would you use any of that time to grow closer to God? Why or why not?

WORD

Haggai 1:2-8

²“Thus says the Lord of hosts, ‘This people says, “The time has not come, *even* the time for the house of the Lord to be rebuilt.”’” ³Then the word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet, saying, ⁴“Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses while this house *lies* desolate?” ⁵Now therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts, “Consider your ways! ⁶You have sown much, but harvest little; *you* eat, but *there is not enough* to be satisfied; *you* drink, but *there is not enough* to become drunk; *you* put on clothing, but no one is warm *enough*; and he who earns, earns wages *to put* into a purse with holes.”

⁷Thus says the Lord of hosts, “Consider your ways! ⁸Go up to the mountains, bring wood and rebuild the temple, that I may be pleased with it and be glorified,” says the Lord.

Raising a generation who loves Jesus is a source of hope for our nation. In Haggai, God asks: Has He told us to do something while we keep making Him wait?

After the Jews returned from exile, they intended to rebuild the temple. Sixteen years later, it remained unfinished while they continued building their own homes.

Bro. Peter's story about his teenage daughter illustrates how quickly time passes. When she sat in the back of the car, he felt hurt, realizing how precious their time together had become. Reasons for postponing become seasons, and seasons become years. Tomorrow eventually becomes today. The message is simple: Don't wait to put God first.

REFLECT: CONSIDER YOUR WAYS

God told His people to consider their ways. He was not condemning work, family, or enjoying His gifts. The problem was the order of their hearts: they focused on their own homes while God's house remained neglected.

They sowed much but harvested little, ate without satisfaction, and earned wages that seemed to disappear like money in a bag with holes. God called them to reflect on their unfulfilled lives.

Our choices reveal what we value. Look at your calendar, screen time, viewing history, and spending. Is God at the center of your daily life? Consider your own life, not someone else's. Is God truly first, or does He receive only the time and attention left over?

REORDER: PUT GOD FIRST. STOP POSTPONING

Reflection should lead to action. When we recognize something that needs to change, feeling sorry is not enough. God told the people to bring wood and rebuild the temple. He called them to act, not merely regret their priorities.

We cannot change yesterday, and tomorrow is not guaranteed. Today is the day to reorder our lives. We can be faithful in the choices before us.

Reordering may require letting go of something that stands between us and God. Jesus calls His followers to deny themselves, take up their cross daily, and follow Him. This may mean apologizing, forgiving someone, releasing a habit, or letting go of an ambition that has taken too much of our heart.

Hebrews 12 calls us to lay aside every encumbrance and sin that entangles us, fixing our eyes on Jesus. This is not legalism or a rejection of everything enjoyable. It means recognizing what keeps us from following God wholeheartedly. Saying no to one thing can mean saying yes to something better.

When Zerubbabel, Joshua, and the people obeyed, they showed reverence for God and began the work. Obedience is worship. God wants more than songs; He calls us to offer an obedient life.

The Nature of Reordering

Putting God first is a daily decision. As Bro. Peter's illustration about changing eating habits shows, meaningful change requires self-denial. We may know what needs to change spiritually yet delay acting on it. Reordering has a cost, but it is worth it.

REBUILD: WITH GOD. FOR GOD

Rebuilding takes time. After the people obeyed, God told them, "I am with you," and stirred their spirits to continue. We cannot follow Him faithfully through our strength alone; we need His help.

Some remembered the former temple's splendor and felt discouraged by the simpler building they were constructing. We, too, can lose heart when obedience brings unexpected results or we compare our lives with others online.

But God did not tell His people to take courage because everything would immediately improve. He told them to take courage because He was with them. The world may be shaken, but God remains sovereign. We are called to be faithful and trust Him with the outcome.

Each person must respond to God personally. We cannot inherit another person's relationship with Him, and religious activity cannot replace a heart made right before God. When the people obeyed, God promised, "From this day on I will bless you." Their circumstances did not change overnight, but God remained faithful.

God Keeps His Promises

The temple was eventually completed, and the people celebrated. God fulfilled His promise in His time. Following Jesus does not guarantee wealth or immediate success. God cares for our needs, and we must trust Him before seeing the results.

God promised Zerubbabel He had chosen him despite failures in his family line. Zerubbabel became part of Jesus' genealogy. Our past mistakes need not define our future. God works through those who turn to Him.

Haggai's promise of greater glory and peace points toward Jesus Christ. Through His blood, those far from God have been brought near, for Christ Himself is our peace. Our failures and regrets do not have to define us. God can redirect our lives by His grace.

So consider your ways. Reflect honestly, reorder your priorities today, and rebuild with God and for God. Do not become discouraged when results take time. Take courage because He is with you.

Putting God first begins by trusting Jesus, not ourselves or our good works. Christ died for our sins and gives eternal life. We need not wait until tomorrow to respond. With His help, we can be faithful today.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. **REFLECT:** Looking honestly at your life right now, what seems to be getting your best time, attention, energy, or affection? Is there anything good that may have quietly taken a place that belongs to God?
2. **REORDER:** Is there something God has already made clear that you have been saying "not yet" to (ex., forgiveness, etc.)? What is one specific step you can take this week?
3. **REBUILD:** Is there an area of your life that feels damaged by past mistakes, delay, sin, or disappointment? What might it look like to stop living in regret and begin rebuilding that area with God and for God?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray that God will show you any area of your life where you have been putting off obedience or allowing other priorities to take His place. Pray for someone who needs to know and put God first. Care for someone who may be struggling or feeling discouraged by listening, offering encouragement, and helping them take a step toward God. Share how God has helped you put Him first in your life and look for opportunities to point others to Jesus and share the gospel with them.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives.

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines.
- For legislators to promote and support bills and laws aligned with God's Word.
- For the Philippines as it hosts the 49th ASEAN Summit on November 16–18: pray for wisdom for the Philippines and ASEAN leaders, peaceful and fruitful discussions, regional cooperation, and safety for all delegates, residents, and security personnel.
- War in Ukraine to end, loss of lives prevented.
- For the rest of the Israeli hostages to be restored to their families safely. For Israel's war with terrorists to end according to God's purpose and for His glory.
- For the civil war in Syria to end peacefully, protection for Christians and other minorities, and freedom from oppression

for Syrians. Pray for the gospel to spread rapidly throughout the country.

- Pray for Sudan and persecuted Christians there; earnestly seek God's intervention to stop the bloodshed. Pray for freedom from oppression, that God's word and His people bring them comfort and hope.
- Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ affected by the disaster in Nepal, especially those who remain missing. Pray that they will be found safely, and that God will strengthen and comfort their families. May the Lord provide for their needs and give them hope and courage as they face the days ahead.

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God, and make disciples
- For elders, pastors, DLeaders, and families to become holy, humble, harmonious, happy, and heart-working)
- For ministries and church expansions worldwide.

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain (MMRC)

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper and intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living.
- Salvation of family and friends

MEMORY VERSE

Haggai 2:4

4 But now take courage, Zerubbabel,' declares the Lord, 'take courage also, Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and all you people of the land take courage,' declares the Lord, 'and work; for I am with you,' declares the Lord of hosts.