

Discussion Guide

“Now's Not the Time?” – A Wake-Up Call from Haggai

PART 1: Intro & Background (10 min)

Icebreaker:

"What's something important you've kept putting off? Why?"



(Examples: cleaning your room, studying, calling a friend back)

What's Going on in Haggai?

- God's people had been **back home in Jerusalem for 18 years**, after being exiled.
- They started building God's temple again... but **stopped** after just 2 years.
- Now, **14 years later**, they're living in nice houses, but **God's house is still in ruins**.
- God sends the prophet Haggai to say: "**Hey—what are you doing?**"

PART 2: Read Haggai 1:1–4 (15 min)

Group Discussion:

1. In verse 2, the people say: "**It's not the right time** to rebuild God's house."
 Why do you think they said that?
2. In verse 4, God asks: "**Is it time for you to live in nice houses while mine is broken?**"
 What do you think God is trying to show them?

Think About It:


- What might “paneled houses” look like for students today?
(Examples: new phone, time for games, self-care, hanging with friends)
- Are those things **bad** on their own?
- When might those things become **a distraction** from what God wants us to focus on?

PART 3: Read Haggai 1:5–6 (15 min)

Key Verse:

“You’ve planted a lot... but you harvest little. You eat and drink but still feel empty. You earn money, but it’s like your wallet has holes.” (v.6, paraphrased)

Group Discussion:

1. What’s God saying in this passage?
 How does it describe how life can feel when we ignore God?
2. Have you ever worked hard for something and still felt unsatisfied?
3. What’s one area in your life that might feel like “a bag with holes”?

PART 4: Connecting It to Our World (10 min)

America & Comfort Culture

- Today, we have a **lot of freedom, money, and time**—especially compared to people in history.
- But we still say: “I’ll follow God more seriously **later**.”
- Like the Jews in Haggai’s day, we might **delay obedience** because we're comfortable or distracted.

Group Talk:

1. What are some common distractions for your generation?
2. What would it look like for someone your age to **put God’s house first**?
3. What would change in your life if you reordered **your priorities**?



PART 5: Challenge & Prayer (10 min)



Quiet Moment:

Take a minute to think or write down:

- “What area of my life have I told God: ‘It’s not time yet’?”
- “What step could I take this week to put God first?”



Group Prayer:

- Ask God to help you **focus on what matters most**.
- Pray for **discipline** in hard seasons and **joy** in building His kingdom.



Key Takeaway:

God doesn’t want your leftovers.

He wants **first place**—because He knows that’s where you’ll find your purpose and joy.