

Unit 18 • Session 4

Malachi the Prophet

Bible Passage: Malachi

Story Point: Malachi said a messenger would get people ready for the Messiah.

Key Passage: 1 Peter 5:10

Big Picture Question: Who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything.

The BIBLE Story

The Jewish people were home in the promised land. They had worked hard to rebuild the temple and fix the walls around the city. The people were ready for God to bless them. They waited, but nothing happened. Some of the people were sad. They wondered if God really loved them.

God did love His people! They had been doing wrong things, and God wanted His people to obey Him. So, God sent the prophet Malachi (MAL uh kigh) to talk to His people. God gave Malachi a message, and then Malachi told the people what God said.

Malachi told the people what they had been doing wrong. The priests were supposed to make sacrifices to God. God deserved the very best sacrifices, but the priests gave animals that were stolen, hurt, or sick. The priests were also supposed to teach the people about God, but the priests taught things that were not true. God was not happy.

Then Malachi gave a warning. He said that a day was coming when God would judge people on earth. God said, “I am going to send My messenger, and he will get people ready for Me.”

The messenger God was going to send would have a very big job. The messenger would say, “Another messenger is coming! Get ready!” The other messenger would be God’s special Messenger, the Messiah God promised to send.

What else did God’s people do wrong? Well, some of God’s people were robbing God! When God gave people good gifts—like money and wealth—the people kept it all for themselves. They did not share. They forgot that everything belongs to God.

God said, “Give what you have! Just a little bit of it. See what happens. I will give you even more blessings—more good things than you can count!”

What else did God’s people do wrong? Well, some of God’s people were saying things about God that were not true. They said, “Serving God is no good. People who do not serve God have better lives than we have.”

“A day is coming,” God said, “when everyone who is wicked will be punished. They will see that it is good to serve God. People who honor Me will be happy, and they will jump and play like calves.”

Christ Connection: Malachi was a messenger for God. He said another messenger was coming. That messenger was John the Baptist. John’s job was to get people ready for the last Messenger, Jesus! Jesus is God’s Son. He came to rescue people from sin.

Say • God sent Malachi to talk to His people. He told the people what they were doing wrong. Malachi told them that God wanted His people to obey Him. He told them another messenger was coming. **Malachi said a messenger would get people ready for the Messiah.** That messenger was John the Baptist. John’s job was to get people ready for Jesus.

Learn the big picture question

Say • Do you remember the big picture question and answer? Who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything. His people waited for God to bless them. When nothing happened, they wondered if God really loved them, but God was working out His good plan to give them, and us, the best blessing of all—Jesus! Jesus came to rescue us from sin.

Practice the key passage

Place a bookmark at 1 Peter 5:10. Open your Bible and read the key passage aloud. **God...** (*Point to the sky after you have suffered a little while, (pretend to cry by making sad face and using fingers to trace tears falling from eyes) will himself restore you. (make a happy face by drawing fingers in an outward arch from the two corners of mouth.)*) **1 Peter 5:10** (*Open hands like a book*). Invite your child to try saying the key passage from memory. Help as needed.

Say • God’s people were suffering. They thought that God did not care about them. God did care about His people! They had been doing wrong things, and God wanted His people to obey Him. God planned to bless and restore His people when they turned away from their sin and turned back to Him.

Coloring page

What you need: coloring sheet, 1 per child, markers or crayons

Give the coloring/activity page. Invite your child to color the one side. On the other side, invite her to circle the children obeying God and to draw an *X* over the children not obeying God.

Say • Good job deciding who was obeying or disobeying God in the pictures. God loves people and gives them rules to live by. God’s rules are good rules. He made everything, so He knows how life works best. In today’s Bible story, God’s people were not obeying Him, so He sent Malachi to talk to them.

Act like animals

Invite your child to hop like frogs, run like cheetahs, lay down like sloths, stretch like cats, and so forth. Be sure to include jump and play like calves, explaining a calf is a young cow.

Say • God shared a promise that all His people would one day be happy and jump and play like calves. God knows the future because He is God, and He is in control! ***Who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything.***

Make love notes to God

What you need: "Love notes to God" printable, heart stickers and crayons

Provide paper, crayons, and heart stickers. If you do not have heart stickers, show your child how to draw hearts on the page. Encourage your child to draw what he thinks about when he thinks about God's love. Retell the Bible story.

Say • Hearts remind us of love. Some of God's people wondered if God really loved them. God *did* love His people. **Malachi said a messenger would get people ready for the Messiah.** God loves us so much, He sent Jesus to rescue us from our sin.

Story review

Ask, ***Who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything.*** Remind your child that **Malachi said a messenger would get people ready for the Messiah.**

Ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

- Whom did God send to talk to His people? (*Malachi*)
- What did Malachi tell the people? (*what they had been doing wrong and that a messenger would come to get people ready for the Messiah*)
- What did God say would happen to people who honored Him? (*They will be happy and jump and play like calves.*)
- ***Who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything.***