

Malachi 2:1-9 Discussion Guide

Pray

Apart from God, we can do nothing. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion. Throughout your time together, continue asking God for help.

Read Scripture

Read Malachi 1:1 - 2:9 together with special focus on 2:1-9.

Bible Study: The HEAR Method

The bulk of your time will be spent discussing God's Word together using the HEAR inductive Bible study method.

Remember:

- Walk through the Bible study together using the HEAR method and talk about what stuck out most to you in the passage.
- Make sure you move discussion to the application section of your study.
- Affections, beliefs, and practices: Make sure to apply the passage to all your life.

Pray

- Take time to pray for one another and ask for His grace to apply His Word to our daily lives.

Malachi 2:1-9 (ESV)

"And now, O priests, this command is for you. ²If you will not listen, if you will not take it to heart to give honor to my name, says the LORD of hosts, then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings. Indeed, I have already cursed them, because you do not lay it to heart. ³Behold, I will rebuke your offspring, and spread dung on your faces, the dung of your offerings, and you shall be taken away with it. ⁴So shall you know that I have sent this command to you, that my covenant with Levi may stand, says the LORD of hosts. ⁵My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him. It was a covenant of fear, and he feared me. He stood in awe of my name. ⁶True instruction was in his mouth, and no wrong was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many from iniquity. ⁷For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts. ⁸But you have turned aside from the way. You have caused many to stumble by your instruction. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says the LORD of hosts, ⁹and so I make you despised and abased before all the people, inasmuch as you do not keep my ways but show partiality in your instruction."

Open: When you were a young child, how did your parents seek to discipline or correct you? What was the effect upon you?

Study:

- 1) In Malachi 2:1, God transitions to the second part of His discussion with the priests. Here, He stops asking rhetorical questions and begins issuing commands. Some prophecies, like this one, begin with an "if" clause: "if you don't do this, I will do this."

What is the “if” clause in the first half of Malachi 2:2? What will the Lord do if they don’t live up to His commands?

- 2) What brutal and graphic phrase does God use to describe what He is doing to gain the attention of the priests in 2:2 & 3? Does this description of God surprise you? Why or why not?
- 3) After God’s firm rebuke, He says that He will maintain His covenant with Levi, who symbolizes the priesthood (2:4)—which is shocking considering the context. What does this show us about the LORD of Hosts? Do you still see God acting in this way today? (If so, share a personal example.)
- 4) What was God’s part of the covenant with the tribe of Levi, the priests (2:5)? How is God’s covenant like a contract?
- 5) In Malachi 2:5-7, God describes the ideal way the priests (the Levites) should have acted towards God and His people. How does this passage describe the relationship between God and His priests? What should a priest have been doing (2:7)?
- 6) What was there a need for priesthood, like the type that the author of Hebrews talks about (see Mal. 2:8-9 and Heb. 13:7-16)?

Apply:

- 7) How is Jesus the embodiment of Malachi 2:4-7? (Explain from other passages of Scripture in the New Testament)
- 8) Read 1 Peter 2:9-10 together. What is Peter drawing our attention to in terms of the result or fruits of believing the Gospel of Jesus Christ? How does this passage instruct you in the type of service you are called to offer Christ?
- 9) In light of the implications of the Gospel, what does God expect from His pastors? How about from you?

PRAY:

- Take time thank God for His covenant love that has saved you and is keeping you.
- Ask God for the Spirit’s help to help you live and speak as His priests in the midst of a dark and hostile world.
- Ask God for wisdom and power to see all of your life about living for His glory.

NOTE: a variety of resources have been used for this discussion guide including: *ESV 12-Week Study Guide*, *Malachi Study Guide* from Christ Redeemer Church, and *Malachi: Easy Doesn’t Change the World* by John Barry