

Malachi 3:6-12

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 3 together while focusing on 3:6-12.

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 3:6-12 (ESV)

"For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, 'How shall we return?' ⁸Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions. ⁹You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. ¹⁰Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. ¹¹I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the LORD of hosts. ¹²Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the LORD of hosts."

Open: Describe a time when something was shared with you that you believed was simply too good to be true. How did it turn out?

Review of Malachi: Remember that at the beginning of this book God addresses 1) the people's unbelief in His specific love of them, 2) then moves to address the religious leaders, the priests, of their wrongdoing, 3) then confronts the people of their unfaithfulness in marriage, 4) their lack of justice, and now confronts their lack of generosity in giving to the Lord.

Study:

- 1) What does Malachi 3:6 reveal about God's character? How would this have encouraged and given hope to the original audience? How does this encourage you personally?
- 2) Take time to compare what you learn about God and his people in 3:6-12. Does this only describe the nation of Israel at this point in history or does it accurately reflect unredeemed human nature? Why or why not? Is God that same today as He revealed Himself to be back at the time of Malachi? How do you know?
- 3) How has Israel "robbed" God? How might their circumstances have tempted them to do so? What does this teach us about how we should view our own wealth and resources?
- 4) What does it mean to "return to God? How does this display faith in action?
- 5) What ironic circumstances does Israel receive for withholding their tithes (v. 11), and what does the Lord promise if Israel will return to him in faith and obedience (vv. 8-12)? Does God promise the same things today?

Apply:

- 6) We learn in Malachi 3:9 of the moral and spiritual disparity of God's people when the words of Malachi were spoken. Are we witnessing a similar moral and spiritual disparity today? If so, what should we do about it? What can you change?
- 7) How is the people's lack of generosity towards God merely a symptom of their unbelief in God and His promises? How do you see this playing out in your life? How about in your giving (both of finances and time)?
- 8) Where does the Gospel provide the Believer hope that God will receive them when they repent of their unbelief? How does this encourage you today?

PRAY:

- Take time thank God for His extravagance to you through the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Ask God to help you believe His promises of provision are for today as well.
- Ask God for opportunities to be generous towards God and others (both in finance and in time).

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