

Malachi 4:4-6 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 3:16-4:6 together while focusing on 4:4-6.

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 4:4-6 (ESV)

"Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

⁵Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ⁶And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.'"

Open: How has God encouraged you through Malachi?

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, 5) confronts their lack of generosity in giving to the Lord and 6) confronts their unwillingness to revere and obey Him and His words.

Study:

Malachi 4:4 is the beginning of God's final remarks in the book. When this book was originally spoken, "remember[ing] the law of...Moses" meant obeying what God commanded through Moses, as required in books like Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

- 1) Why did God call on the returned exiles to observe Moses' Law? How long would observance of this Law be required? Why?
- 2) God says that He will send Elijah the prophet to them before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. Who is this "Elijah" like prophet?
- 3) Read Luke 3:1-18 together. What was the message that John came proclaiming? How does this prepare the way for the kind of Savior Jesus would be?
- 4) How does John counsel the people in verse 10-14 of the Luke passage? What was so radical about this counsel and how did it point to the radical life, teaching, and substitutionary death of Jesus?
- 5) Malachi looks forward to the "great and awesome day of the LORD", or the final return of the Messiah when He will make all things right. What are we to expect as Christians when Jesus returns? What awaits those who are not Christians?

Apply:

- 6) How does John's counsel affect you personally? Are there practical ways you are called to grow in showing love towards those around you? If so, what are they?
- 7) Do you take time to reflect on the fact that Jesus is going to return soon? If not, why not? If so, how does this increase your hope that God will finally and eternally correct all that is crooked and broken?
- 8) In light of the promise of Christ's return one day, how is God calling you to care for those around you who don't know Him as Savior yet?

PRAY:

- Take time to thank God that He is good and patient towards us and His heart is bent on rescuing His children.
- Take time to thank God that He is truly in control of all history working out His purposes to make all things right again.
- Ask God for the Spirit's help to be mindful that Jesus is going to return again in glory and power.
- Ask God for opportunities to share with others about God's amazing mercy to them through Jesus Christ.

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