

Deep Dive

THE BOOK OF
MALACHI

YOUTH EDITION



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LESSON 1

Does God Really Love Me?

Pick Someone to Read the Text: Malachi 1:1–5

💡 *Big Idea:*

God's love is real even when life doesn't feel like it.

Lesson Icebreakers

1. **Emoji Check-In** – if your life now was an emoji what would it be?
2. **Best Day vs. Worse Day** – what was one of your best days ever? What was one of your worse days ever? What made them different?

🔑 *Key Verse:*

I have loved you, says the Lord. Malachi 1:2

Relate to the Text!

- Have you ever felt ignored or forgotten?
- Have you ever thought, if God loves me, why is this happening?

What's Going On?

The people of Israel were basically saying God, you say you love us, but we don't see it. Life was hard. Things weren't going how they expected. They assumed: Hard life = God doesn't care

The Real Issue

They were judging God based on their feelings, their situation and what they expected life to look like instead of remembering what God had already done and who God has proven Himself to be.

🔍 *What God Says Back*

God points to history saying I chose you, I kept you, and I didn't abandon you. His love wasn't about really about their comfort it was about His commitment.

Make It Real

Sometimes we think if God loved me, I'd be happier or if God loved me, this wouldn't happen. But real love isn't always easy, comfortable or instantly understandable.

Discussion Questions

- Why do we sometimes doubt God when things go wrong?
- Is it easier to trust God when life is good? Why?
- What are some ways God has shown love that we might overlook?

Key Takeaway

Faith = trusting God's love even when life doesn't make sense.



Write down 3 ways God has been faithful in your life (past or present)



LESSON 2

Going Through the Motions

Pick Someone to Read the Text: Malachi 1:6–14

💡 *Big Idea:*

God cares about how and why we worship; not just that we do it.

Lesson Icebreakers

- Write a list of what you actually care about in order from greatest to least and then write approximately how much time you spend on each thing. Be honest!

💡 *Key Verse*

If I am your Father... where is My honor? Malachi 1:6

Relate to the Text!

- Have you ever done something just because you had to?
- Have you ever half-done something?

What's Happening?

The people were still worshiping, but they gave God leftovers, they didn't care and worship felt like a chore.

The Problem

They were basically saying, God, you can have whatever I don't want.

Making It Real

A more modern version of this could be being distracted during prayer, or only thinking about God at church, or giving effort to everything else like sports, or hanging out with friends, everything takes priority over God.

Key Truth

What you give your best to shows what matters most to you

Discussion Questions

- What does giving God your best look like?
- Why does worship sometimes feel boring or like a burden?
- What does your effort toward God say about how you feel about Him?

Key Takeaway

Worship isn't about perfection; it's about making God a priority over everything else in your life.



Pick ONE area to give God your best this week: time, attention, effort, or attitude.



LESSON 3

Who Are You Influencing?

Pick Someone to Read the Text: Malachi 2:1–9

💡 *Big Idea:*

Your life influences others, whether you realize it or not.

Lesson Icebreakers

1. Who Influenced You?

Who is someone (real or online) that influences your style, mindset, or decisions? Why?

2. Follower Count

If people followed your life like social media, what would they see most of?

🔑 *Key Verse*

The lips of a priest should preserve knowledge... Malachi 2:7

Relate to the Text!

- Who do people look up to today and why? (influencers, athletes, entertainers)
- Did you know people are watching YOU too?

What's Happening?

The leaders (called priests, they were the pastors of that day) had stopped taking God seriously, they taught wrong things, and led people away from God.

The Problem

They had influence with people, but they used it poorly.

Make It Real

You may not feel like a leader, but your friends are watching you, if you have younger siblings they are watching you, and classmates are watching you, which makes you a leader!

Key Truth

You don't need a title to be a leader; you already are one because somebody is always watching you.

Discussion Questions

- How can your actions affect someone else's faith?
- Have you ever influenced someone without realizing it?
- What kind of example are you setting?

Key Takeaway

People learn about God by watching your life



Be intentional: encourage someone who may seem down, set a good example, and always think before you act or react.



LESSON 4

Faithfulness Matters

Pick Someone to Read the Text: Malachi 2:10–16

💡 *Big Idea:*

How you treat people shows how seriously you take God.

Lesson Icebreakers

- 1. Promise test** – what’s a promise you’ve made before but didn’t keep?
- 2. Trust Scale** – on a scale of 1-10, how easy is it for you to trust people? Why?

🔑 *Key Verse*

You have been unfaithful... Malachi 2:14

Relate to the Text!

- What does it mean to be loyal?
- What breaks trust?

What’s Happening?

People were breaking promises, being unfaithful in relationships, and acting one way in “church” and another in life

The Problem

They thought I can be good with God but careless with people and God says that is not true.

Make It Real

Examples of being careless with people could be talking behind someone’s back, being fake, breaking trust, and treating people poorly, just to name a few.

Key Truth

You can't separate your relationship with God from how you treat others

Discussion Questions

- Why is it hard to stay faithful in friendships?
- How does trust get broken and how does trust get rebuilt?
- What does faithfulness look like daily?

Key Takeaway

Faithfulness isn't all about what you say you'll do, it's about what you do consistently without fail.



Think about a friendship that you may have messed up being careless and fix it by apologizing, being honest, or keeping your word.



LESSON 5

Is God Even Fair?

Pick Someone to Read the Text: Malachi 2:17–3:5

💡 *Big Idea:*

God's justice is real even when it seems delayed.

Lesson Icebreakers

- 1. Fair or Unfair** – the youth teacher will read a list of fair or unfair statements (someone cheats and still wins, someone studies and still fails)
- 2. Instant Reaction** – think about a time something happened to you that you didn't think was fair. What is your instant reaction?

🔑 *Key Verse*

Who can endure the day of His coming? Malachi 3:2

Relate to the Text!

- Have you ever seen something unfair and thought, that's not right!
- Use your phone and research what justice means.

What's Happening?

People were saying since bad people are winning, God must not care.

The Problem

They focused on what was wrong with everyone else while avoiding what needed to change in themselves.

🔍 *God's Response*

God responds saying justice is coming, but are YOU ready?

Make It Real

We often think God needs to get them, but we forget I'm not perfect either.

Discussion Questions

- Why do we notice others' wrongs more than our own?
- What would God change in you if He examined your life?
- Is correction always a bad thing?

Key Takeaway

God doesn't just fix the evil in the world; He changes us too.

 *Weekly Challenge*

Ask God what do You want to change in me?



LESSON 6

Come Back to God

Pick Someone to Read the Text: Malachi 3:6–12

💡 *Big Idea:*

You can always return to God, and it starts with real change.

Lesson Icebreakers

1. What pulls you away? Call out different things and have the youth step forward if it pulls them closer to God and have them step back if it pulls them further away.

- Phone
- Social Media
- Friends
- Sports
- Stress
- Prayer
- Church
- Music
- Peer Pressure

🔑 *Key Verse*

Return to me, and I will return to you. Malachi 3:7

Relate to the Text!

- Have you ever drifted away from something without noticing?

What's Happening?

People had drifted from God, but they didn't realize it.

The Problem

They thought they we're fine, but God told them they moved away from Him.

Make It Real

Drifting looks like praying less or not at all, caring less, and prioritizing everything else above God.

Key Truth

You don't accidentally move closer to God; you drift away from God when you are not intentional about getting closer. Relationship with God requires intentionality.

Discussion Questions

- What causes people to drift spiritually?
- How do you know if you've drifted?
- What does returning to God actually look like?

Key Takeaway

Coming back to God is more than words it shows up in the choices you make.



Take one step back toward God by committing to pray daily, read Scripture (you may need to get a Bible in a different version to help you better understand it), and consider changing one bad habit that has caused you to drift away from God.

LESSON 7

Does It Even Matter?

Pick Someone to Read the Text: Malachi 3:13–4:6

💡 *Big Idea:*

Living for God always matters, even when it doesn't look like it.

Lesson Icebreakers

1. What is something good that you do that no one really notices?

🔑 *Key Verse*

They will be my treasured possession... Malachi 3:17

Relate to the Text!

- Have you ever done the right thing and felt like it didn't matter?
- What does it mean to be faithful?

What's Happening?

People were saying what's the point of serving God because others seem to have it easier.

The Problem

They judged everything based on what they could see right now.

🔍 *God's Response*

God assured them I see everything, that He remembers the faithful, and that a day is coming when it will all make sense.

Make It Real

Sometimes doing right feels unnoticed and being faithful feels hard, but God sees what others and you do not.

Discussion Questions

- Why is it hard to stay faithful when no one notices?
- What helps you keep going when it feels pointless?
- Do you think God notices small things?

Key Takeaway

Faithfulness is never wasted even when it's unseen. God is the One who matters most when it comes to your faithfulness.



Do something right this week even if no one notices and remember God sees what others do not good and bad.

