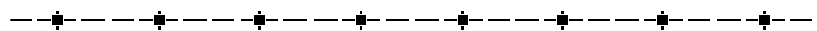


Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2010

Through the Old Testament in Two Years

Part Two



Created for use with young, unchurched learners
Adaptable for all ages including adults

Old Testament

Malachi

Last week we learned that Israel was disobedient to God. God sent Zechariah to speak to Israel. God wanted Israel to return to Him. He sent Zechariah to warn Israel. God reminded the Israelites that their ancestors had been disobedient. God promised to be merciful. God promised to send Jesus.

Malachi 3

Read the Bible

READ: Malachi 3:1-10, 16-18 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Memory Verse

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him.
John said, "Look!
The Lamb of God!
He takes away
the sin of the world."
(John 1:29 NIRV)

Begin With Prayer

Malachi was another prophet of God. He had a special word from God to the people of Israel. The people began to doubt that God loved them. They thought that He had forgotten about them or didn't care about them. God reminded them that He loves them. (Malachi 1:1-5)

Goals

1. Understand that God sent Malachi to give His message to Israel.
2. Recognize that God said He would judge Israel.
3. Learn that God wanted Israel to return to Him.
4. Understand that God promised to send Jesus.

God promised, "I will send My messenger. He will prepare My way for Me. Then suddenly the Lord you are looking for will come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant will come. He is the one you long for." Here Malachi prophesied about the coming of John the Baptist and Jesus. This message is one of hope. A messenger would prepare the way for God's Promised One. He would purify and cleanse God's people. "He will act like one who makes silver pure. And He will purify... just as gold and silver are purified with fire." (Malachi 3:1-3 NIRV) Once God's people had been purified they would bring proper offerings to God. (Malachi 3:4)

God would judge His people for their lack of respect for Him, for their "practice of evil magic," for their adultery, for their lies in court, for cheating workers of their pay, for mistreating widows and children, and for taking rights of others. (Malachi 3:5 NIRV)

God called Israel to return to Him. "I am the Lord. I do not change.... You have turned away from My rules. You have not obeyed them. You have lived that way ever since the days of your people long ago. Return to Me. Then I will return to you," says the Lord who rules over all. (Malachi 3:6 NIRV)

Malachi— Bible Facts

1. Malachi was a prophet of God.
2. Malachi told Israel that God would judge them.
3. God told the people to return to Him. God said He would be merciful.
4. Malachi prophesied about John the Baptist and Jesus.

God said that Israel was stealing from Him, “By holding back your offerings. You also steal from Me when you do not bring Me a tenth of everything you produce.” (Malachi 3:9 NIRV)

God told Israel that if they would be faithful to tithe, He would be faithful to provide for their needs. God promised to bless them. “Bring the entire tenth to the storerooms in My temple. Then there will be plenty of food. Put Me to the test,” says the Lord. “Then you will see that I will throw open the windows of heaven. I will pour out so many blessings that you will not have enough room for them.” (Malachi 3:10 NIRV)

The people of Israel who respected and honored God said they would follow Him. God said, “They will belong to Me... They will be My special treasure. I will spare them just as a loving father spares his son who serves him... once again you will see the difference between godly people and sinful people... you will see the difference between those who serve Me and those who do not.” (Malachi 3:16-18)

Review

1. **Who was Malachi?** (Malachi was a prophet of God.)
2. **What did Malachi tell Israel?** (Malachi told Israel that God would judge them.)
3. **What did God say?** (God told the people to return to Him. God said He would be merciful.)
4. **What else did Malachi tell Israel?** (Malachi prophesied about John the Baptist and Jesus.)

Do You Know Jesus?

God kept His promise. He sent Jesus to us. Jesus took our punishment. He died in our place. Then, three days later, He came back to life! The Bible tells us that if we trust Jesus, and believe in Him, He will take us to Heaven when we die. (John 3:16; Romans 10:9-10) We just have to invite Him to be a part of our lives. If you would like to know more, talk to your teacher.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus.
3. Ask God to purify and cleanse you from sin.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to ask God to purify and cleanse them from sin.

Prayer Time

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2. Thank God for sending Jesus.
3. Ask God to purify and cleanse you from sin.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to ask God to purify and cleanse them from sin.

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: Malachi 3:5-10, 16-18 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Teachers: God loves us. We are His special treasure. Make treasure chests out of square gift boxes. Decorate them with gold or silver glitter.

Have you ever seen anyone do something wrong? When they got caught did they ask, “Who cares?” Well, God cares. He cares about how we behave and how we treat others.

God sent His prophet, Malachi to tell Israel that He would judge His people for their lack of respect for Him, for their “practice of evil magic,” for their adultery, for their lies in court, for cheating workers of their pay, for mistreating widows and children, and for taking rights of others.

God called Israel to return to Him. “I am the Lord. I do not change.... You have turned away from My rules. You have not obeyed them. You have lived that way ever since the days of your people long ago. Return to Me. Then I will return to you,’ says the Lord who rules over all.”

God said that Israel was stealing from Him, “By holding back your offerings. You also steal from Me when you do not bring Me a tenth of everything you produce.”

God told Israel that if they would be faithful to tithe, He would be faithful to provide for their needs. God promised to bless them. He promised that they would have plenty of food. God said, “Try it.” God told Israel, “I will throw open the windows of heaven. I will pour out so many blessings that you will not have enough room for them.”

The people of Israel who respected and honored God heard Malachi’s message. They said they would follow God .

God said, “They will belong to Me... They will be My special treasure. I will spare them just as a loving father spares his son who serves him... once again you will see the difference between godly people and sinful people... you will see the difference between those who serve Me and those who do not.”

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus.
3. Ask God to take away your sin.

Memory verse for younger children

He takes away the sin of the world. John 1:29

Learning Activities

•**Memory verse activity** — Make lambs using construction paper and cotton balls. Write the memory verse on the bottom of a sheet of construction paper and glue the lamb on the construction paper.

•**Test your memory** — As you tell the story use a poster with two columns. On one side write the things that God said Israel was doing wrong from Malachi 3:5. Then write the things God said He would do (send messenger, send Jesus, purify, return to them, bless them, open the windows of heaven, etc.).

•**Taste activity** — Bring marshmallows for a treat.

Give the children ten pieces of candy (like M&Ms). Ask them to leave one for a child who was absent.

•**Think about it** — There is a pattern in the Old Testament stories. God kept telling Israel to repent, to return, to stop sinning. God promises to be merciful, to forgive, and to send Jesus. Talk about God's mercy and grace.

•**Touch activity** — God loves us. We are His special treasure. Make treasure chests out of square gift boxes. Decorate them with gold or silver glitter.

Make offering boxes. Talk to two children ahead of time. Give that child ten pennies. Ask the child to place one penny in the offering basket. Give another child two nickels and three pennies. Ask that child to place one nickel in the offering basket.

Malachi said that God would purify Israel like silver. Bring pictures of silver being purified. Talk about the process with the children.

Malachi told Israel they had robbed God. Cut out pictures of coins. Teach the children what a tenth is.

God said He would open the windows of heaven and bless Israel if they obeyed. Make windows out of construction paper. Use colored plastic wrap to make the glass.

Make stained glass windows. See internet for ideas.

Malachi prophesied about the coming of John the Baptist and Jesus. Color pages of Jesus' baptism.

•**Run and play** — Ask the children to run around ten times.

Ask the children to play freeze tag. The person who is "it" must touch ten children, then another child can take a turn.

•**Listen** — As the children take time for silence, remind them that God wants us to obey.

•**Sing** — Sing "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus," "Obedience," "Trust and Obey," or another song related to the story.

•**Reach out** — During class, pray (by name) for kids who did not come today. Ask the children to go with you to deliver the lambs with the verse to those who were absent. Pray with the children who were absent. Encourage them to read the story in the Bible.

Memory Verse

The next day
John saw
Jesus coming
toward him.
John said, “Look!
The Lamb of God!
He takes away
the sin of the world.
John 1:29

Word Puzzle

Trace the letters.

You will see the

difference

between those

who serve Me

and those

who do not

Word Search

B K C L P C R G T P R Y F I R U P
S F N R H E O F J L R E R H S D E
G P K P V G M V K E R R I E R B V
D R E G N E S S E M G I M O N R O
R S N L K P B M R N K F L P D S L
T S W O D N I W E A A S I L V E R
E I F K P O R B S S N N S I T N G
H H N L E D P D N A S T T S S L V
P R E H T I T S A H R A I I S E C
O B G U P O C F E E F L G G Y E P
R R D G B E I M L N T H F E L N N
P I H C A L A M C F I R U P F G K

MALACHI

MESSENGER

PURIFY

FIRE

PROPHET

LORD

CLEANSE

TITHE

LOVE

COVENANT

SILVER

WINDOWS

Word Search

B K C L P C R G T P R Y F I R U P
 S F N R H E O F J L R E R H S D E
 G P K P V G M V K E R R I E R B V
 D R E G N E S S E M G I M O N R O
 R S N L K P B M R N K F L P D S L
 T S W O D N I W E A A S I L V E R
 E I F K P O R B S S N N S I T N G
 H H N L E D P D N A S T T S S L V
 P R E H T I T S A H R A I I S E C
 O B G U P O C F E E F L G G Y E P
 R R D G B E I M L N T H F E L N N
 P I H C A L A M C F I R U P F G K

MALACHI

PROPHET

LOVE

MESSENGER

LORD

COVENANT

PURIFY

CLEANSE

SILVER

FIRE

TITHE

WINDOWS

Word Search

F N B T F V M A L A C H I
C H F G B P K N L B R S C
V G N F S I L V E R K F B
F L H P B R M P S F N M G
P R O P H E T R B T D K N
G S F C F B C K C G T F N
N F W F G R M P U R I F Y
S H F L F K P K W M C D G
W I N D O W S R C P G B T
S R M C K S C H D R C K H
H B R S F I R E N D B G F
D N K P G F T L C V K M S

MALACHI

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Word Search

F N B T F V M A L A C H I
C H F G B P K N L B R S C
V G N F S I L V E R K F B
F L H P B R M P S F N M G
P R O P H E T R B T D K N
G S F C F B C K C G T F N
N F W F G R M P U R I F Y
S H F L F K P K W M C D G
W I N D O W S R C P G B T
S R M C K S C H D R C K H
H B R S F I R E N D B G F
D N K P G F T L C V K M S

MALACHI

PROPHET

PURIFY

FIRE

SILVER

WINDOWS

Anagram

TEXN

OHNJ EHT
TTBISPA

EUSSJ

MGOINC

KOOL

MALB

AEKST WYAA

ETH NIS

JNOH

Anagram

NEXT

JOHN THE
BAPTIST

JESUS

COMING

LOOK

LAMB

TAKES AWAY

THE SIN

JOHN