

1. Opening

Purpose for Digs and Prayer (1 min) Digs gather to study, pray, and apply the Word of God to our lives. Our hope is that we would increase in our love for God, love for one another, and tell others about Him (Matt 22:37-40; Matt 28:19- 20).

Weekly Christian Formation (5 min)
Question 15* Since no one can keep the law, what is its purpose?

Answer: That we may know the holy nature and will of God, and the sinful nature and disobedience of our hearts; and thus our need of a Savior. The law also teaches and exhorts us to live a life worthy of our Savior.

Scripture Reference: Romans 3:20

What does this mean? How does it impact our lives?

Recap (5 min)
Recap the last time your Dig Group gathered. How did you apply God's Word over the last week(s)?

2. Bible Study October 4th (30-45 minutes)

***Read the passage aloud together.**
***Pray for God's wisdom to rightly understand the passage.**

Scripture Reference: Malachi 1:1-5

1. Discuss the context of Malachi. When did this prophecy take place? What were the sins Israel was struggling with? (Refer to Nehemiah 13).

2. Before God makes any claims about Israel's behavior, what does He say about His own behavior in verse 2?

3. Why is this an important foundation to lay before the rest of the prophecy?

4. Why do you think Israel struggles to believe God's love for them?

5. How do your own circumstances and struggles impact your ability to trust God's love?

6. God then shows Israel what His love is like by reminding them of Jacob and Esau. How does their story show what God's love is like? Refer to Romans 9:8-16.

7. Bonus question: What does the language of "love" and "hate" teach us about God?

8. In verse 5, what is the result of a right understanding of God's love?

9. In what ways does God's love shape your life?

3. Confession and Prayer (30-45 minutes)

*Prayer: Reserve plenty of time to pray for one another.

*Prayer Challenge: Pray that God would provide opportunities for you to share Christ with people. Pray that you would make the most of every opportunity (Col 4:2-6).

**Weekly Christian Formation Questions are taken from the New City Catechism