



As the discussion leader, here are a few things to keep in mind for your Life Group: • **Pray** for your group discussion time! • **Review** your notes from Sunday's message and familiarize yourself with the discussion questions prior to your group meeting. • **Choose** a few questions from the guide which you feel will generate the most discussion in your group. For questions with multiple parts, answer the first part before reading the next part to the group. These questions are designed to build on the answer of the previous part before moving on.

Getting to Know Me

Describe a time when you were corrected by someone you were close to. How did you respond to the correction?

Exploring the Word – Malachi 3:1-9

1. As you listened to the message, what points stood out?
2. Read Malachi 3:1-4. Even though the people have “weared the Lord,” God still promises to send them messengers. What does this tell us about God’s nature? How can we do a better job of reflecting His nature in our relationships?
3. Who are the messengers that Malachi is referring to? How will this help refine the people (refer to Romans 3:25-26)?
4. Read Malachi 3:5-6. Who does God promise to judge in these verses? Do we still see these same behaviors in our culture? How can we ensure we don’t sin against God in these same ways?
5. Read Malachi 3:7-9. God calls the people to repent and return to him. How have they “cheated” him? Why does Malachi use such a strong word to describe their actions?
6. Read Psalm 50:10-12. Even though God already owns everything, why is the tithe so important to Him? How much are we commanded to tithe (refer to Leviticus 27:30; Numbers 18:26; & Deuteronomy 14:22)? How is the tithe different from an offering?



Malachi 3:1-9

I. The correlation between the salvation and marriage covenants (3:1-4)

- God _____ our needs in the salvation covenant.
- Every person is designed for covenant love, but no one _____ it.
- Love is freely bestowed and _____ is earned.
- Covenant relationship _____ “the self” through mutual submission to “the other”.

II. The test of love (vv. 5-6)

- Covenant love does not exist where there is no _____.
- God’s covenant freely offers family and citizenship _____.
- In Christ we are offered citizenship in heaven as _____.
- Generosity is qualified _____ prior to monetarily.

III. Repentance - the test of love (vv. 7-8)

- Relationship with God without repentance is _____.
- Repetitive _____ is different from perpetual rebellion.
- There is _____ between monotheism and monogamy.
- Love doesn’t need to be _____ to give.

IV. The tithe – the test of love (vv.8-9)

- The “tithe” means _____ and is part of biblical worship of God.
- God identifies the tithe as his _____ . (Lv. 27:30)
- God measures our obedience and trust in the _____.
- The tithe enables the _____ of Christ. (Deut. 14:28-29)