

MALACHI - MALACHI THE PROPHET

KIDS' LIFEGROUP GUIDE

WEEK: 2/16/20 - 2/22/20

OVERVIEW:

- **Part 1:** Catch Up On Life (15 Minutes)
- **Part 2:** Kidtown Lesson Review (15 Minutes)
- **Part 3:** Reflection (15 Minutes)
 - Optional - Part 3a: Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)
 - Optional - Part 3b: Snack (5 Minutes)
 - Optional - Part 3c: Sing (5 Minutes)
- **Part 4:** Prayer Time! (20 Minutes)

PART 1: CATCH UP ON LIFE (15 minutes)

Setting: Sit in a circle with kids and adults interspersed! Adults sitting amongst the kids helps everyone engage and pay attention. Parents - you are always responsible for your kids, but you're also looking to engage with other kids in your group.

- *Leader Note: If your group eats dinner with your kids, this is the best part of the guide to do together while you eat. Add 15 minutes for everyone to get their plates and start eating. Then shift into intentional conversation as the kids are starting to finish their food.*

Vision: God calls the church -- and our LifeGroup -- to be family! Because of this, we want our kids to know our adults and our adults to know our kids. The best way to get to know each other is to ask each other questions and tell each other about our lives.

- *Leader note: While you're getting started, have an adult -- or older kid -- read this vision statement. After you've done it for a while, you can ask kids if they remember why we ask each other questions. Help them to remember that God's making us family, so we want to get to know each other.*

Questions:

- 1.) What was your high and low from the week?
- 2.) **Kids Pick!** Let each kid ask the adults in the group one question.
 - Click [here](#) for a bank of questions for Kids to ask Adults if they're having a hard time thinking of any.
- 3.) **Adults Pick!** Have each adult ask the kids in the group one question.
 - Click [here](#) for a bank of questions for Adults to ask Kids if they're having a hard time thinking of any.

PART 2: KIDTOWN LESSON REVIEW (15 minutes)

Vision: God uses the Bible to show Himself to us. He also uses it to help us love Him and others better. We don't only want to learn *about* the Bible; we're also called to apply it to our lives -- to change the way we think (Head), what we love and value (Heart) and what we do (Hands).

- *Leader note: While you're getting started, have an adult -- or older kid -- read this vision statement. After you've done it for a while, ask kids if they remember why we study the Bible.*

Lesson: Malachi the Prophet

Bible Passages: Malachi

REVIEW:

- 1.) **Kids what do you remember from the story you learned about on Sunday?** (Pause and let them think of what they can remember.)
- 2.) **Can anyone remember the main characters?**
 - God (*Leader Note: Almost always a right answer. Helps reinforce that the entire Bible is about God and points forward to Jesus*)
 - Malachi, God's People
- 3.) **Ok, does anyone remember any of the story points?**

Story Point #1: God's people didn't worship God with their whole heart.
Story Point #2: God's people were doing the right things for the wrong reasons.
Story Point #3: God's people were worshipping based on their circumstances.
- 4.) **Awesome! And can anyone remember how this story connected to Jesus?**
Christ Connection: Jesus helps us worship God with our whole heart.

Transition: That was awesome! Y'all did a great job remembering. Ok let's watch the video and see if we remember anything we forgot or notice anything new this time.

WATCH THE VIDEO STORY:

Click [here](#) to watch the Gospel Project Video Story.

TALK THROUGH THE STORY POINTS:

Leader Note: If your kids are younger, it helps to give them journals. For each question, have them write their answers first and then go around the circle and share.

Leader Note: Say each story point and have the kids repeat it.

Story Point #1: God's people didn't worship God with their whole heart.

- Question: What did it mean for God's people then to not worship God with their whole hearts? *They weren't giving God the best of what they had!*
- Question: Why was God so unhappy with the people's sacrifices? *God's people were going through the motions of worship, but their hearts were not in it. By offering sick and lame animals, they communicated that they did not believe God deserved their best. They were trying to save their best animals for themselves. God always deserves our best.*

PART 2: KIDTOWN LESSON REVIEW (CONTINUED)

Story Point #2: God's people were doing the right things for the wrong reasons.

- Question: Why were the people worshiping God? *Because they wanted blessings from Him, when they didn't get the blessings that they expected, they stopped worshiping well.*
- Question: What would it look like for us to not worship God with our whole hearts? *Adults share first, then guide kids to see how this might be true in their lives (e.g. obeying God's Word just so that other people will think we are good, only following part of what God's Word says).*

Story Point #3: God's people were worshiping based on their circumstances.

- Question: What are some stories that we have talked about where people worshiped no matter their circumstances? *Esther, followed God's commands even though it could have been the end of her life; Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to worship anything but God even though it meant that they would be punished for it; Daniel worshiped God and it landed him in the lion's den.*

REVIEW THE CHRIST CONNECTION AND APPLY IT:

Christ Connection: Jesus helps us worship God with our whole heart..

- Teach: God loves His people so much that He is not willing to let them settle for anything less than loving them with all of their hearts.

Main Application(s): God tells us to worship Him with our whole hearts.

- Adults first then kids - In what areas of your life are you not worshiping God with your whole heart?
 - How can you worship God with your whole heart this week?

PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE:

Ask any of the kids if they can remember the key passage. Help lead them through it leaving out words and see if they can fill them in.

The God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little while.

1 Peter 5:10

PART 3: REFLECTION (10 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child or tell them to get their journals. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- What is one thing I need to do in light of this story? (Help the kids think of ways they can grow, how they might pray for help or practical steps of repentance they can take.)

After the kids have had time to write down their reflection questions, go around the circle and share one at a time (kids and adults).

OPTIONAL - PART 3a: LESSON ACTIVITY (10 minutes)

Option 1: Map It Out

Instruct kids to create a map of their neighborhood. Encourage them to mark special places, like their favorite playground, their friends' houses, or their school. Guide them draw paths from their home to the other destinations. Invite volunteers to share their maps with the class.

Say • A map helps us get from one point to the next. It shows us which way to go and helps us recognize our final destination. Today we learned about a messenger--Malachi--whom God sent to help His people stay focused on where He wanted them to go and what He had planned for them. This messenger helped them get ready for Jesus.

Option 2: Help Or Hinder

Blindfold a volunteer. Spin him around three times and then challenge him to walk across the room, but do not give him any more instructions. (Walk alongside for safety.) After he stumbles around, bring him back to the starting point. Again, instruct him to walk to the other side of the room, this time giving detailed instructions of which direction to move in. Allow other volunteers to take a turn.

Say • Which way was easier to do what I asked—when I let you wander around the room with no directions or when I gave you careful, detailed directions? Today we learned about some priests in the Bible who disobeyed God and did not lead His people well. God sent a Malachi to set them straight.

OPTIONAL - PART 3b: SNACK (5 minutes)

If your group doesn't eat dinner together, now is a great time to stop for a snack break before spending time praying together and talking about living on mission. For Kidtown we keep snacks simple with Goldfish for most kids and Gummy snacks in case a kid has Gluten allergies.

OPTIONAL - PART 3c: SING (5 minutes)

Play one or more of this video (or pick another that you like) and sing and dance along!

- [The God of All Grace](#) (Key Passage Song)
- [The Heart of Worship](#)

PART 4: PRAYER TIME! (20 minutes)

PRAY FOR EACH OTHER: (10 minutes)

Vision: God calls His people to love each other, pray for each other and help each other carry burdens.

Questions to Ask (pick 1):

- How do you need prayer this week?
- What is one thing you need Jesus to help you with this week?
- What is one way you're hoping Jesus will help you grow this week?

Pray: Invite each kid to write down the other kids' prayer requests. Then have each kid pray for the person on their right!

PRAY FOR JESUS' MISSION: (10 minutes)

Vision: God calls His people to share with others the good news of Jesus. This means that we try to love others with our actions and with our words. We want all our friends to know about Jesus and His great love for them.

Questions to Ask (pick 1):

- What friends or neighbors of yours can we pray for today?
- How can you show God's love this week to someone who might not know Him?
- Who could we invite to do something fun with our LifeGroup friends this month?

Pray: Invite each kid to pray for their friends or someone else's friend to come to know Jesus. Have one adult close out the time, thanking God for how we get to be family together and asking God to bring more people into His family!