



DAY 10 This week we are going to pick up where we left off in Sunday school, and pull from our wonderful Gospel Project curriculum for our daily family devotionals! Every unit comes with a memory verse, and a big picture question, and our hope is that students can memorize these as they are able. We will include both at the end of each devotional for you to review together.

But first, let's quickly review where we were! A few weeks back, we learned that the walls and gates around Jerusalem had been destroyed and that God's people were in danger from their enemies. Nehemiah went to Jerusalem, and God used Nehemiah to rebuild Jerusalem's walls. Fifty-two days later, the walls were completed and the people celebrated! Ezra read God's Word, and the people recognized their sin. God's people repented and promised to be faithful. God told the Jewish people that He would bless them, but time passed and the people began to doubt. God sent Malachi to remind His people that God keeps His promises. Malachi said that God is faithful. Listen closely to Malachi's story...

Step 1: Watch

This week's Bible story - Malachi The Prophet <https://www.crosssound.org/family-videos>

Step 2: Discuss

1. Think of some examples where following directions or warning signs are important (some examples – road closed ahead sign, recipes, lego instructions).
2. The Bible has lots of warnings too. What warnings for God's people do we see in Malachi?
3. When things are hard and we can't see what God is doing, how can we remember that He loves us?

Step 3: Sing Together The God of All Grace <https://www.crosssound.org/family-videos>

This is our memory verse for this week set to music!

Step 4: Review

- *Story Point:* Malachi called God's people to repent to prepare for the Messiah.
- *Memory Verse for the week:* 1 Peter 5:10 "And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you."
- *Big Picture Question:* Who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything in heaven and earth.

Step 5: Pray

Ask for everyone to share a prayer request and something they want to thank the Lord for, and then take turns praying out loud.



DAY 11 Malachi the Prophet

Step 1: Read

Malachi 1:6-8 - The Priests' Polluted Offerings

Step 2: Discuss (see curriculum notes below to help guide these questions)

1. The Jewish people grew impatient and made wrong choices. Do you remember some of the wrong choices they made? (They grew lazy in their worship, doubted God's love, and offered sick animals as sacrifices.)
2. Why were these offerings polluted, and why is it important to give God our best?
3. How might we be tempted to offer God less? How can you offer him your best?
4. How does trusting God's faithfulness free us to give him our best?

Step 3: Sing Together Great is Thy Faithfulness <https://www.crosssound.org/family-videos>

Step 4: Review

- *Story Point:* Malachi called God's people to repent to prepare for the Messiah.
- *Memory Verse for the week:* 1 Peter 5:10 "And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you."
- *Big Picture Question:* Who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything in heaven and earth.

Step 5: Pray

Ask for everyone to share a prayer request and something they want to thank the Lord for, and then take turns praying out loud.

Curriculum Notes

Guide your kids to see that 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.

When we do not trust God, we are tempted to make sinful choices. But God still showed compassion. He loved His people and wanted them to follow Him. God sent them a messenger named Malachi, and Malachi reminded them of God's character.

What are some things that Malachi told them? (Be patient, God has not forgotten you, God will come to rescue His people.) Malachi called God's people to repent to prepare for the Messiah. Ultimately, Malachi reminded the Jewish people that they can trust God, even when they do not hear His voice or see Him moving. We can trust God, even when He seems silent.



DAY 12 Malachi the Prophet

Step 1: Read

Malachi 2:1-2, 4-9, The Lord Rebukes the Priests

Step 2: Discuss (see curriculum notes below for support)

1. Looking at verse 7, what is the calling of a Priest?
2. What are the priests being rebuked for? What are the actions that follow “if you will not” in verse 2? What has this led to in verse 8?
3. What does it mean to sacrifice something?
4. How is God loving his people through this rebuke?

Step 3: Sing Together - I will Hear <https://www.crosssound.org/family-videos>

Step 4: Review

- *Story Point:* Malachi called God’s people to repent to prepare for the Messiah.
- *Memory Verse for the week:* 1 Peter 5:10 “And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.”
- *Big Picture Question:* Who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything in heaven and earth.

Step 5: Pray

Ask for everyone to share a prayer request and something they want to thank the Lord for, and then take turns praying out loud.

Curriculum Notes

Help kids recall that to sacrifice means offering God our very best of everything. The people in the story were supposed to be making a sacrifice to worship God. Sacrifice expresses love, thanksgiving, or the need for forgiveness; and sacrifice often comes at great cost to ourselves.

Point out that we sometimes try to make shortcuts to obey God because we don’t trust Him like we should or we act selfishly. But God wants us to obey Him completely, offering Him our very best. The people were supposed to make a sacrifice to worship God, but they gave Him their leftovers instead of their best.

God’s people made wrong choices and became lazy in their worship, but God still loved them and cared for them. God showed compassion, treating them with kindness even though they did not deserve it.



DAY 13 Malachi the Prophet

Step 1: Read

Malachi 3:1-4, God Promises to Send a Messenger

Step 2: Discuss

1. Malachi is the last prophet to speak before Jesus was born 400 years later. What messenger is he speaking of that would “prepare the way” in verse 1?
2. How did John the Baptist prepare the way for Jesus?
3. In verse 3 and 4, how would Jesus sit as a “refiner and purifier” of the sons of Levi, so their offerings would be pleasing?

Step 3: Sing Together - I am the Lord <https://www.crosssound.org/family-videos>

Step 4: Review

- *Story Point:* Malachi called God’s people to repent to prepare for the Messiah.
- *Memory Verse for the week:* 1 Peter 5:10 “And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.”
- *Big Picture Question:* Who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything in heaven and earth.

Step 5: Pray

Ask for everyone to share a prayer request and something they want to thank the Lord for, and then take turns praying out loud.

Optional Family Activity

- *Crazy directions:* Create a sign with a large arrow on it. Instruct your kids to stand on one side of the room. They must get to the other side, but they must follow the direction that the arrow is pointing. Continue directing them around the room by changing which way the arrow is pointing. After many twists and turns, let them reach the wall on the other side of the room. Play another round, but this time allow the kids to walk straight to the opposite wall with a straight path.
- *Say:* Was it frustrating for you when I kept changing the direction of the arrow? In our story today, we heard that Malachi prophesied about a messenger who would come from God. This messenger would point people to Jesus and help make their paths straight.
- *OR: Instruct your kids to make a map of Bainbridge Island.* 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.
- *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 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.



DAY 14 Malachi the Prophet

Step 1: Read

Malachi 4:1-6, The Day of the Lord is Coming

Step 2: Discuss (see curriculum notes below for support)

1. In these very last words of the Old Testament, what day is God predicting will come? And how would this encourage his people?
2. How many years passed before this day came to pass?
3. God promised that when the Messiah came the righteous would jump like what kind of animal freed from their stall?
4. In verse 5, how does he describe the day of the Lord?

Step 3: Sing Together - Always in Control <https://www.crosssound.org/family-videos>

Step 4: Review

- *Story Point:* Malachi called God's people to repent to prepare for the Messiah.
- *Memory Verse:* 1 Peter 5:10 "And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you."
- *Big Picture Question:* Who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything in heaven and earth.

Step 5: Pray

Ask for everyone to share a prayer request and something they want to thank the Lord for, and then take turns praying out loud.

Curriculum Notes:

Malachi was a messenger—a prophet—who told God's people to repent. Malachi also told about another messenger God would send. This messenger, John the Baptist, would call people to repent and get them ready for a final Messenger, Jesus Christ. Jesus would bring good news of salvation. Four hundred years would go by between the last words of Malachi and the beginning of the New Testament. The next time God spoke directly to people, it would be through angels proclaiming the births of two special babies. Malachi, John the Baptist, and Jesus Christ all remind us that God keeps His promises and that He is trustworthy.

Our key passage reminds us that God has promised to restore, establish, strengthen, and support us. God keeps His promises. God has a purpose and a plan for our lives. This verse also tells us that our life will have suffering and hard times. In today's story, the Jewish people questioned whether God loved them because they did not hear His voice. We can still trust that God keeps His promises, even when life is hard or it seems like God is silent. Remind kids that God always speaks to us through His Word.