

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

NOVEMBER 8, 2020

MALACHI

First, Come up with as many words that begin with the letter “M” as you can in 1 minute (or longer for younger kids)

Say: Those are some great M-words! Our Bible story today comes from the Book of Malachi. He said a messenger from God would prepare the way for the Messiah.

**Then, read the story summary on the next page as a family.
(From Malachi)**

After reading, discuss these questions:

1. Who was the last prophet in the Old Testament? (Malachi)
2. What kind of sacrifices were the people offering?
3. What did Malachi tell the people?
4. When is it easy to obey God? When is it difficult to obey Him?

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.) 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. 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. The Jewish people waited 400 years after Malachi before they heard from God again. So we know that even if God seems silent, we can trust God.

Art Option: 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 to 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. God sent Malachi 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.

Malachi the Prophet

Malachi

The Jewish people were home in the promised land. They had worked hard to rebuild the temple and fix the walls around the city. The people were ready for God to bless them. They waited, but nothing happened. Some of the people were sad. They wondered if God really loved them.

God did love His people! They had been doing wrong things, and God wanted His people to obey Him. So God sent the prophet Malachi (MAL uh kigh) to talk to His people. God gave Malachi a message, and then Malachi told the people what God said. Malachi told the people what they had been doing wrong. God's message told the people about their sins and called them to turn back to Him. The priests had disobeyed God. They were supposed to lead the people in worship, but instead of offering God the best animal sacrifices, the priests offered animals that were stolen, hurt, or sick. The people were not offering to God a share of their wealth. And some of the people were saying things about God that weren't true.

Then God said, "I am going to send My messenger, and he will get people ready for Me." The messenger God was going to send would have a very big job. The messenger would say, "Another messenger is coming! Get ready!" The other messenger would be God's special Messenger, the Messiah God promised to send.

Malachi told the people to be patient. God had not forgotten about them. Life was not easy, but if they served God and followed Him, they would be happy on the day when God would keep His promise to rescue His people.