



KEY VERSE: "I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed." (Malachi 3:6)



Challenging the Leader

Lesson Scripture: **Malachi 3:1-4, 6-12**

God's Word

1 "I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty. **2** But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. **3** He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, **4** and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

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6 "I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. **7** Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty. "But you ask, 'How are we to return?' **8** Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' In tithes and offerings. **9** You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. **10** Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. **11** I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe," says the LORD Almighty. **12** "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the LORD Almighty.

Bible Story

Challenging the Leader

Malachi 3:1-4, 6-12

In today's Scripture passage, God sent a message to His people through the prophet Malachi. This was God's message (in essence):

I am going to send a messenger ahead who is going to prepare the way for me. All of a sudden, the Leader you have been waiting on will enter the Temple. When He comes, will you be able to survive His appearance? He will be like a blazing fire or like a strong soap that bleaches clothes.

I am the LORD, and I haven't changed. That is why the descendants of Jacob haven't been destroyed. Ever since the days of your ancestors, you have failed to obey My commands and you have not done the things I told you to do. Return to Me, and I will return to you.

Malachi reminded the people that God wants us to choose to obey His rules. Giving some of our money to God's house is a way to worship Him. God said that those who were not giving their tithes and offerings to God's house were robbing Him. To give a *tithe* is to give one-tenth of our money to God. God made everything, so everything we have belongs to Him, including our money. God promised blessings, more than the people could count. He also promised to protect their crops from bugs and that their fields would produce a lot of fruit. When that happened, other nations would see them and call them blessed.

Project "Leadership"

(Part 1)

"Mom, we have a social-studies project and I need some help. We have to create a presentation on a good leader," Brianna said.

"That sounds like a great project. Who are you thinking about?" Mom asked.

"I can't make up my mind. There are so many good leaders. I've also found some bad ones," Brianna said.

"That's true. The best way to choose is to pick someone whom you would like to follow," Mom suggested.

"I love the ideas of Nelson Mandela. I like Rosa Parks too. She is an example that one person can change the world," Brianna said.

"Those are both good choices. Seems like you have a decision to make," Mom commented.

Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius

Hello! Nicholas and Cornelius here. For the past few weeks, the Bible lessons have taken us on a journey with the Minor Prophets. Did you know that the book of Malachi is the last book in the Old Testament? Malachi brought the Israelites an important message.

He also told them about another messenger that God would send. Whom was he was talking about? After Malachi's prophecy, the people did not hear from God for four hundred years!



Project “Leadership” (Part 2)

“Brianna, you only have a few days left before your project is due. How is it going?” Mom asked.

“I took your advice and chose someone I would like to follow,” Brianna replied.

“Well, are you going to tell me who it is, or do I have to guess?” Mom asked lightly.

“The person I chose has all the qualities of a great leader. She is honest, works hard, and she is a role model not just for her family but for the community she lives in as well,” Brianna explained.

“Sounds like you did your research. I’m proud of you. But you still didn’t tell me who you chose,” Mom said.

“I couldn’t think of a better leader, so I chose you, Mom,” Brianna gushed.

Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius

Even after four hundred years, God hadn’t forgotten His people. In fact, He was getting ready to keep His best promise ever. The messenger was John the Baptist and just like Malachi, he would call the people to repent from their sins. John’s mission was to get people ready for a final messenger—Jesus. Jesus would bring the Good News of salvation. God would send His Son, Jesus, into the world to save people from their sins.



Complete the Scripture Verses

Complete the math problems then use the answers to complete the Scripture verses from today’s lesson. Use the answers to decide on which blank line to write in the phrase. (For example, if the answer is “3,” then write that part of the verse on line #3). (The symbol [/] means “divided by.”)

(A) $10 - 4 =$ _____

(B) $8 + 2 - 6 =$ _____

(C) $10 / 10 =$ _____

(D) $4 \times 3 / 6 =$ _____

(E) $6 + 3 - 6 =$ _____

(F) $25 / 5 =$ _____

“I the LORD

“Then all the nations

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse,

“I will send my messenger,

“Return to me,

“See if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven

1. _____ that there may be food in my house.”

2. _____ who will prepare the way before me.”

3. _____ and I will return to you.”

4. _____ will call you blessed.”

5. _____ and
pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”

6. _____ do not change.”