

Challenging the Leader

March 29, 2020—Lesson 5

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

Key Verse: “I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.” (*Malachi 3:6*)

Faith Block: When I obey God, He blesses me!

Lesson Objective: The children will begin to understand that God wants leaders to be just.

Materials Needed: *Picture Lesson Cards*, Bible, rug, ten (10) one-dollar (\$1) bills, ten (10) quarters, ten (10) dimes, ten (10) nickels, ten (10) pennies, line-art coloring pages related to the lesson, crayons, markers, blocks, books, other toddler toys for each class session, (**optional:** Pax the Penguin; Younger Children’s Resource Kit [lesson 5 materials]).

* * * * *

A BEGINNING BLOCK

✂️ Prior to class, secure ten (10) one-dollar bills, quarters, dimes, nickels, and pennies to show to the children.

Welcome: Greet the parents as they bring their children into the room. Engage any children who arrive early—with blocks, books, and other toddler toys—in order to maintain their attention. Gather the children and help them settle down when you are ready to begin class.

Opening Worship and Activity: Let the children know that prayer time is when we talk to God. Tell the children to bow their heads and close their eyes, and then lead them in prayer.

Have the children stand.

Say: God wants His leaders to do what is right. Today, we will do the things that the leader, your teacher, says.

Lead the class in a game of “Simon Says” that includes movement. Play several rounds as time permits and as the children are engaged. (The last command can be, “Simon says, ‘Sit quietly and prepare for our lesson.’”)

Prepare the class for the Bible story.

B BIBLE STORY BLOCK

The Bible Story: Hold up the lesson 5 Picture Lesson Card where all the students can see it.

Say: God wants leaders to set good examples.

Read or tell the Bible story to the children and review it with them afterward.

Challenging the Leader

God was preparing the people for His return to His Temple. Malachi encouraged the priests to become better leaders.

God wanted to bless His people. He also wanted them to turn away from doing wrong. God said that the people

had robbed Him by not paying tithes and offerings. God commanded them to bring all the tithes into His house.

The people must believe in God’s Word and help the church. If so, then God promised to bless them so much that they would not have room for the blessings. God also promised to protect their crops. All nations would see this and call them blessed.

C STACKS OF FUN

Demonstrating the Tithe: **Say:** God commands that we give Him some of the money we have.

Help the children count from one to ten, using each denomination of money. Help the children separate one bill, one quarter, one dime, one nickel, and one penny. Tell them that one of each type of coin (or bill) out of ten is what God wants us to give back to Him.

Say: God wants us to bless His house.

☺️ **Words from Pax the Penguin:** Present Pax to the class. (See the *Early Elementary* teacher book, *pages 35–36*, for suggestions on how to present Pax.) The script for Pax appears below.

Pax: Hello, girls and boys! In today’s story, what did God want the priests to do? (*Pause for responses.*) They must pay their tithes and offerings. Now, let’s thank God for helping us give cheerfully too. Repeat after me: “Thank You, God (*pause*), for helping me joyfully give.” Good job, boys and girls.

Let Pax wave good-bye and/or hug the children.

D CLOSING BLOCK

Review the lesson with the children. Have the children repeat the Faith Block after you. Afterward, say the prayer on the Picture Lesson Card. Distribute the Picture Lesson Cards to parents/guardians when they arrive to pick up their children.

Challenging the Leader

March 29, 2020—Lesson 5

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

Key Verse: “I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.” (*Malachi 3:6*)

Faith Block: I love to give to God!

Lesson Objective: The children will begin to understand that it is important to do what is right at all times and to follow the right leaders.

Materials Needed: *Preschool* student books, Bibles, star-shaped stickers, pencils, crayons or coloring pencils, markers, transparent tape, a ball or other toy that can be passed around easily, a media player, **(optional:** Pax the Penguin; Younger Children’s Resource Kit [lesson 5 materials]).

* * * * *

A BEGINNING BLOCK

✂ Prior to class, secure the ball or other toy that can be passed around easily for the opening activity.

Welcome: Greet the children and parents with a warm and inviting smile as they arrive to class. Tell the children how glad you are to see them.

Opening Worship and Activity: After the students are seated, open the session with prayer. Then collect the children’s offerings. Briefly talk with the children about what “giving” means.

Play a game of “Hot Potato.” Have the children sit in a circle. Hold a ball or other toy in your hands that can be passed around. Explain that when the music begins, you will pass the object to the person sitting next to you. Everyone will continue to pass the object quickly because they do not want to be holding the object when the music stops.

Begin the music and the game. Whenever you stop the music, whoever is holding the object at that time will stand up and give it back to the teacher. Play continues until it is time to start the lesson.

Prepare the children for the Bible story.

B BIBLE STORY BLOCK

The Bible Story: Say: Let’s listen carefully to the story to find out why it is good to give to God.

Read the Bible story to the children and review it with them afterward.

Challenging the Leader

The prophet Malachi told the people that God would send messengers to help them. These messengers would be leaders.

They would teach the people how to bring the right kinds of offerings to God.

God does not change, but people do. Instead of giving to God, they take things away from Him. People will be punished for doing this.

Malachi explained that when people give to God, He will give much more back to them. God will save and protect those who honor Him.

When others see good and faithful people of God, they will be called happy people.

Bible Story Application: Refer to the lesson 5 Bible Story Application (*page 66*) and teach the children the sing-along “Returning to God.”

☺ **Words from Pax the Penguin:** If you purchased Pax the Penguin, use the script printed in the *Early Elementary* teacher book for lesson 5 (*page 46*). See suggestions on how to present Pax on *pages 35–36* of this teacher book.

C STACKS OF FUN

Giving to God: Have the children complete the activity. Help them count the coins and understand that they are to color only *one* of the dimes. Explain that the ten (10) coins equal one dollar (\$1). Also explain that one dime, or one of the coins out of ten (10), belongs to God.

God Gives Us Good Leaders: Have the children color the Bible story picture. As they color, review the Bible story with them.

D CLOSING BLOCK

Say the Key Verse, and let the children repeat it after you. Have the children repeat the Faith Block after you: “I love to give to God!” Then close the class session with prayer.

Challenging the Leader

March 29, 2020—Lesson 5

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

Key Verse: “I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.” (*Malachi 3:6*)

Faith Block: When I obey God, He blesses me!

Lesson Objective: The children will begin to understand and demonstrate leadership qualities that please God.

Materials Needed: *Early Elementary* student books, Bibles (NIV translation), pencils, coloring pencils, crayons, happy-face stickers, masking or transparent tape, attendance chart, markers, reward stickers, puzzles or coloring pages, decorative stickers, copier paper, scissors, glitter glue, a one-dollar bill (\$1), several objects, a praise and worship music CD, CD player, (**optional:** Pax the Penguin; Younger Children’s Resource Kit [lesson 5 materials]).

* * * * *

A BEGINNING BLOCK

✂ If you purchased Pax the Penguin, decide whether you or someone else will be the puppeteer. It is important that the children not see Pax placed on or taken off the puppeteer’s hand; this must be done discreetly and out of the children’s view.

✂ Prior to class, prepare for a game of “Follow the Leader” by putting objects in the walking path in the classroom.

Welcome

Welcome the students and their parents or guardians. Take attendance, placing a sticker beside the name of each child (that is present) on the attendance chart. Engage early arrivers with activities until you are ready to begin class.

Opening Worship and Activity

Lead the children in prayer. Then collect the children’s offerings. Thank the children for bringing their offerings.

Say: Raise your hand if you were fair to others last week. (*Pause for action.*) Great job, boys and girls. Raise your hand if you like to be line leader. (*Pause for action.*) Leaders have a lot of responsibility to guide others the right way. Let’s play a game of “Follow the Leader.”

Make sure the students understand how to play the game. Then, select a student to lead the line of students through the room, maneuvering around the objects you placed and other things in the room. Play several rounds, rotating leaders. After the game, congratulate the leaders for steering followers around the objects in the path and keeping everyone safe.

Prepare the children for the Bible story.

B BIBLE STORY BLOCK

The Bible Story

Say: In today’s Bible story, as leaders, the Levite priests knew the type of sacrifice that God commanded. But the Levite leaders did not correct the people when they refused to bring their tithes to God. Listen to find out what God said about this.

Read the Bible story to the children and review it with them afterward.

Challenging the Leader

The prophet Malachi shared a message from the Lord God. Jesus Christ was coming! Jesus Christ’s presence would be as bright as fire. His brightness would make the Levite leaders pure and clean. Then God would accept their offerings.

The people were in trouble for robbing God. They did not obey God’s command to bring their tithes and offerings to the Temple. But God does not change. God loves His people. The people should trust and obey God again. Then He would pour out blessings so big they would not have room enough for it. Everyone would call them blessed.

Bible Story Application

Refer to the lesson 5 Bible Story Application (*page 66*) and teach the children the sing-along “Returning to God.”

☺ Words from Pax the Penguin

If you purchased Pax the Penguin, prepare to present him to the class. Create a distraction so that you or your assistant can discreetly bring out Pax. The script for Pax appears on the next page.

(Pax walks in, waving the dollar bill.)

Pax: Hello, everybody!

Teacher (and Children): Hello, Pax.

Pax: I missed offering time. So, I will just go to the store and buy some candy with this money.

Teacher: Oh no, Pax! *We will accept your offering. (Hand the offering basket to Pax. Pax will then place the dollar bill into the offering basket.)* One of God's commands is that we bring our offerings and tithes to the church.

Pax: I know what an offering is . . . but what is a tithe?

Teacher: A *tithe* is 10 percent of the money we earn or receive. Boys and girls, what were the Levite leaders and people in trouble for in today's Bible story? *(Pause for responses from the children, gently guiding them to respond that the people were in trouble for "robbing" God—or not giving back to Him what was His.)* That's right! They had stopped giving their tithes and offerings to the Temple. And they were having all kinds of trouble. But God never stopped loving them. He gave them a chance to say I'm sorry and come back to Him.

Pax: Well, I want to obey God, so I'm happy to give my offering. Do you want to obey God, boys and girls? *(Pause for responses.)* Great! See you in the worship service.

CSTACKS OF FUN Searching for Words

Lead the class to read the message together, then allow time for the children to trace the dotted line around each word to circle the words in the puzzle. Assist as needed, making sure they understand their assignment. Afterwards, read the message again.

God Gives Us Good Leaders

Have the children color the Bible story picture. As they color, review the Bible lesson with them.

Make a "God Blesses Obedience!" Card

Refer to the reproducible activity (*page 74*) and, using

copier paper, make a copy of the template for each child in your class. Pass out the templates and art supplies. The sides numbered 1 and 4 are the outside of the card. The sides numbered 2 and 3 make the inside of the card. On the back (the side numbered "4"), under the words "Created by," have each child write his or her name. After this, invite the children to draw a picture on side 3 that shows them obeying God in some way; they may then color and decorate the template. Once done, cut out the template and proceed to help the children fold the card first along the dotted line horizontally, and then fold it along the other dotted edge to where the sides numbered 1 and 4 are on the outside of the card. Invite each child to read along with you the words "God Blesses Obedience!" printed on the front of the card.

DCLOSING BLOCK

Say: Today, we heard that the Levite priest leaders were not leading the people as they should. Why were the people in trouble? *(Pause for responses.)* Yes, for robbing God. But, God's love for His people does not change. God offered the people a chance to say they were sorry and return to Him and obey Him. God would reward them for their obedience. Be a good leader and obey God.

Read the Key Verse to the children and ask them to repeat it. Have the children repeat the Faith Block after you; then prepare the students for the closing prayer.

Pray: Dear God, thank You for Your love, which never changes. Help us to lead others well by obeying Your commands. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

As you wait for parents or caregivers to come for your students, here are some suggestions for things to do to keep the children occupied while they wait: (1) Have the children review their lesson leaflets, completing any unfinished activities. Make sure each child's name is written somewhere on his/her leaflet. (2) Allow the children to help clean up the classroom before leaving class. (3) Allow for quiet play time if you have a room with an activity area. (4) Offer crayons and coloring sheets or paper for the children to draw on or allow them to work on puzzles together.

Reproducible Bible Story Applications

March 29, 2020

A SING-ALONG

Returning to God

(Sing to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb.")

God sent them a messenger,
Messenger, messenger;
God sent them messenger—
John the Baptist was he.

God sent one that we should seek,
We should seek, we should seek;
God sent one that we should seek—
His name is Jesus Christ!

Jesus will return again,
Return again, return again;
Jesus will return again—
Many will seek Him.

April 5, 2020

A SING-ALONG

What Jesus Did

(Sing to the tune of "Michael, Row the Boat Ashore.")

Jesus goes to Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!
Told the disciples to find a colt.
Hallelujah!
Jesus entered on the colt.
Hallelujah!
Jesus cleared the Temple.
Hallelujah!
Jesus healed the blind and lame.
Hallelujah!
He got praised for all He did.
Hallelujah!

Lesson 5 : April 12, 2020

A READ-ALOUD POEM

Jesus Is Risen!

Three women went to the tomb
to anoint Jesus' body—
When they arrived, what did they see?
The stone was rolled away, and an angel spoke
to the three;
The angel said, "Don't be afraid. Jesus isn't with me.
"Go tell the disciples and Peter, 'Jesus is risen;
He is not dead'"—
With fear and trembling,
the women left the tomb and fled.

Lesson 7

April 19, 2020

Lesson 8

A SING-ALONG

Esther Spoke Up

(Sing to the tune of "Michael, Row the Boat Ashore.")

Esther went before the king.
Hallelujah!
"Spare my life and the lives of my people."
Hallelujah!
The king asked, "Who wants to harm you?"
Hallelujah!
They would not let Haman harm them.
Hallelujah!
Because of evil, his life would not be.
Hallelujah!
All were saved—the Jews and the queen.
Hallelujah!

Early Elementary Activities

LESSON 5 EARLY ELEMENTARY Make a “God Blesses Obedience!” Card

<p>1</p> <p>God Blesses Obedience!</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Created by: _____</p>
<p>2</p> <p>“All the nations will call you blessed, . . .” says the LORD Almighty.</p>	<p>3</p>