



HOUSE GROUPS

HOUSE Groups: Discussion Questions:

Malachi 1:1-9

(Memory Verse)

Malachi 1:1-2 - *The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi.*
2 *"I have loved you," says the LORD.*

(Malachi 1:1-2): **1** The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi. **2** "I have loved you," says the LORD. "Yet you say, 'In what way have You loved us?' [Was] not Esau Jacob's brother?" Says the LORD. "Yet Jacob I have loved;

Question: What does the name Malachi mean?

Question: What was the length of time between the prophet Malachi, and the arrival of John the Baptist?

Question: In your opinion, what type of situations would the devil like to capitalize upon in order to get us to question God's love for us?

Question: What leads us to mistakenly believe that if God really loved us we would not experience difficulty?

Question: How does God reaffirm His love for His people when correcting them?

Question: Why do you think it is that we will not only question God's love for us during trials, but that we will also question God's calling upon our lives?

Question: What can we hold onto when we do not understand why certain things are happening?

Question: How can a personal crisis lead us out of spiritual complacency?

(Malachi 1:3-4): **3** But Esau I have hated, And laid waste his mountains and his heritage For the jackals of the wilderness." **4** Even though Edom has said, "We have been impoverished, But we will return and build the desolate places," Thus says the LORD of hosts: "They may build, but I will throw down; They shall be called the Territory of Wickedness, And the people against whom the LORD will have indignation forever.

Question: Why did God judge Edom, and why does God judge sin?

Question: Have you ever wrestled with the tough love of the Lord, and how did you handle it?

Question: How do the promises of the Lord fulfilled in other's lives encourage you to hold on God's promises for your life?

(Malachi 1:5-8): **5** Your eyes shall see, And you shall say, 'The LORD is magnified beyond the border of Israel.' **6** "A son honors [his] father, And a servant [his] master. If then I am the Father, Where [is] My honor? And if I [am] a Master, Where [is] My reverence? Says the LORD of hosts To you priests who despise My name. Yet you say, 'In what way have we despised Your name?' **7** "You offer defiled food on My altar, But say, 'In what way have we defiled You?' By saying, 'The table of the LORD is contemptible.' **8** And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, [Is it] not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, [Is it] not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?" Says the LORD of hosts.

Question: In your own words define the word *sacrifice*?

Question: How is a sacrifice to the Lord really a matter of one's heart?

Question: Why do you think it is that there will be a stricter judgment from God upon those that are teaching the Bible?

READ James 3:1

Question: Why would a pastor be tempted to not teach the whole counsel of God, or to change what the Bible says?

Question: What made the people's sacrifices to the Lord unacceptable, and why did the priests allow it to continue?

Question: How are we to honor the Lord with our sacrifices, and what are some practical ways to do so?

(Malachi 1:9): 9 "But now entreat God's favor, That He may be gracious to us. [While] this is being [done] by your hands, Will He accept you favorably?" Says the LORD of hosts.

Question: Define what it means to repent?

Question: How does God show Himself gracious to His people?

Question: What did the people of Israel need to do in order for the Lord to accept them favorably?