

Digging Deeper

Read through the entire Prophecy of Malachi.

Imagine that this is a letter that God has written to you. As the stinging accusations of the law come one after another after another can you imagine yourself asking the same questions the Israelites were asking?

This is very law-heavy book. What is the purpose of God's law? Is that something you need as we look forward to celebrating Christmas?

Fully and deeply understanding where we stand in respect to God's law drastically changes our reaction to Malachi 4:2-3. How does it also change your view of Christmas?

Closing Prayer

Close with prayer for the spiritual needs of your family, your spiritual family, and people everywhere.

A Savior Comes

Do We Want Him?

Connection Group Study Guide
For the week of December 17^e – December 23

Malachi 4:1-6

Are You Happy With the SONrise
that God Has Provided?

Opening Prayer

Getting to Know Me

Can you recall a particularly beautiful sunrise that you have witnessed?

What can a sunrise tell you about the remainder of the day?

Into the Bible

Read Malachi 2:17 – 3:18

What seems to be the context which God is responding to through His prophet Malachi?

When will the distinction between those who fear the Lord and those who don't be made evident?

Read Malachi 4:1-6

What promises are made to the proud and arrogant as to their fate on this Coming Day (verse 1)?

What promises are made to those who fear the LORD (verses 2-3)?

What does God urge the people to remember and why (verse 4)?

Who does God promise to send to the people (verse 5)?

Read Luke 1:17 How was this prophecy fulfilled?

What is the two-fold promise concerning John/Elijah (verse 6)?

Connecting

What sinful arrogance does God call attention to in Malachi 3? How many of the faults pointed to in these verses have you shared in committing? What then is the purpose of this message for you?

Having heard the law in Malachi 3 and the threat of 4:1, what comfort does the promise of the Sun of Righteousness bring to you?

Read through the *Benedictus* (The Song of Zechariah) Luke 1:67ff

Do you see any references to Malachi's prophecy in Zechariah's song? Who is the rising sun of righteousness?

If we were the original audience of this message, how might verse four have been differently written?