

FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 2, 2020



**BIBLE STORY:**

*Malachi*

**BIBLE VERSE:**

*Psalm 113:3*

**BABIES–PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:**

*God is great, and He loves us.*

**KIDS TEXT TRUTH:**

*We should worship God with respect and honor. (YK)*

*We should worship God in awe of His great name. (OK)*

**ADULT CORE PASSAGE:**

*Proverbs 23:17-21,29-35*

**FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:**

*Proverbs 23:19*

**FAMILY READING PLAN:**

**SUNDAY:** *Proverbs 27:15-27*

**MONDAY:** *Proverbs 28:1-14*

**TUESDAY:** *Proverbs 28:15-28*

**WEDNESDAY:** *Proverbs 29:1-16*

**THURSDAY:** *Proverbs 29:17-27*

**FRIDAY:** *Proverbs 30:1-17*

**SATURDAY:** *Proverbs 30:18-33*

## FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Malachi and Proverbs together as a family:



- **Who was Malachi?** Malachi is the last prophet recorded in the Old Testament. Malachi prophesied about 400 years before Jesus was born and a mere 100 years or so from the time Judah had returned from captivity in Babylon. Zechariah and Haggai had encouraged the temple rebuilding, and while temple worship had been restored, the people were still choosing their own way instead of God's way. Malachi was sent to help the people return their focus to God.
- **The problem of sin.** Malachi, like most Old Testament prophets, confronted Judah about their sin. Malachi laid out a list of their sins which included things like immoral lifestyles that did not honor God, withholding of the tithe, and marrying people who were not God worshipers. The consequences of their poor choices led to economic disaster and many other hardships the people could avoid by returning to faithfully following God.
- **Malachi's message.** Once Malachi confronted the people about their sin, he showed how their sin had led them to the circumstances they now lived in. The priests had failed in leading the people in appropriate worship. The people had lost respect for God and did not honor Him as they needed. Malachi then asked for obedience and encouraged the people to turn from their sin and follow God. Malachi, like other prophets, warned of judgment for continued unfaithfulness, but also ended his prophecy with a message of hope for a coming savior.
- **Security and hope is found in God.** Malachi's message echoed Solomon's teaching of security and hope. Solomon warned those who were looking for outside influences to bring security and hope to turn from those desires and seek God. Solomon encouraged believers to seek to associate with those that are likewise pursuing a godly lifestyle. Seeking God, in Solomon's day, Malachi's day, and today will lead to finding Him. We should, as Malachi suggested, worship God with respect and honor.