

God's Unblemished Love

Malachi 1:1-5

LG Questions for 04/19/09

Getting Started

1) **Love Stated.** a) What would be your parting words to someone you love but might not see again for a long time? b) Malachi's message was the last time Israel would hear from God for 400 years! What did He say and how did His silence to come underscore the importance of this message?

Getting into the Bible

2) **Love Proven.** a) Read Malachi 1:1-3 and tell how God proved His love to Israel right from the beginning. (See also Romans 9:10-13.) b) Given what you know about God's love, how do you explain His use of the word "hated" in verse 3? (See Genesis 29:30-33, Luke 14:26, and Matthew 10:37 for help.)

3) **Love Questioned.** a) How did God's people respond to His declaration of love in verse 2? Why do you think they reacted this way? b) How would you respond to the same question in your life? How has God loved you? Give at least half a dozen reasons for your answer.

4) **Love Illustrated.** a) Read Malachi 1:3-5. Even though they were Esau's descendants and Israel's cousins, why was Edom's destruction necessary for Israel's security? (See Numbers 20:14-21 and Obadiah 8-14.) b) What similar promise has God made to encourage us in the face of our enemies? (See Hebrews 13:5-6.) Name a time when you've claimed this promise?

Getting Practical

5) **Love Remembered.** God's promises are our security in times of trial. For that reason, make an effort to memorize Hebrews 13:5-6—"God has said, 'I will never leave you; never will I forsake you.' So we say with confidence, 'The Lord is my Helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?'"