

“Prepare the Way of the Lord!”

Malachi 3:1-6

05.17.09 Life Group Study Questions

Getting Started

1. Imagine that Jesus had never come to earth. Name at least a half dozen ways the world would be different today. How would your life also be different if Jesus had never come? Now read the prophecy of Christ's coming in Malachi 3:1-6.

Getting Into the Bible

2. **Read Malachi 2:17—3:1.** What two great messengers did God promise to send His people Israel? How was this an answer to their complaint in verse 17, and in what way was this prophecy fulfilled in the New Testament (John 1:19-34 and 2:13-25).
3. **Read Malachi 3:1-6.** What was God's purpose in sending the Messiah to His people Israel? (Compare Malachi 1:3 with Matthew 1:21.) What was the one factor that kept them from being punished when Jesus came? (Compare Malachi 3:6 with Jeremiah 31:3 and Romans 5:8). Tell how this has been true in your life too.

Getting Personal and Practical

4. **Read 2 Peter 3:3-9.** Just as people grew impatient waiting for Christ's First Coming, many today wonder if Jesus will come again after such a long time. What reason does Peter give for Christ's delay? Like Israel, what must be true for us to welcome Jesus with joy at His return? (See 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 and 1 John 2:28—3:3.)