



# RLA Kids Weekly Devotional Guide

February 23, 2020

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## What We're Learning This Week

### **“MALACHI THE PROPHET” MALACHI**

*Malachi was a messenger—a prophet— who told God's people to repent. Malachi also told about another messenger God would send. This messenger, John the Baptist, would call people to repent and get them ready for a final Messenger, Jesus Christ. Jesus would bring good news of salvation*

*Remember: this guide is meant to help facilitate conversations and engagement with Jesus throughout the week, so don't feel like you need to do this all in one day!*

#### **BEFORE WE MEET TOGETHER ON SUNDAY**

- Continue conversations as a family regarding the lesson from last Sunday, where we discussed that God's Word is powerful. When Ezra read God's Word, the people loved God more and changed their ways. The Bible says that Jesus is “the Word.” Jesus is God who came to live with people on earth. Jesus has the power to change our hearts.
- Read through Malachi. Pray and ask God to reveal Himself to you + for wisdom in how to best shepherd and disciple your kids through this Scripture in the next week.

#### **AFTER WE MEET TOGETHER ON SUNDAY**

##### **Discipleship Through Scripture and Conversation**

- Talk to your kids about the Bible story that they learned at church. Ask them to explain what they learned/what stuck out to them in the story, and expand upon the truths of the Bible that they are bringing up.
- Continue the conversation with your kids on Sunday and throughout the week. Some helpful conversations this week could be:
  1. God communicated through Malachi that the people's lack of blessings didn't mean that God didn't care. God exposed His people's sins and made it clear that they needed to repent of their sinful actions and turn back to Him.
    - God is showing his people that repentance is a way to get closer to Him. Is there any sins that God will not forgive? What sins should we ask God to forgive?
    - When the people felt that God had left them in Jerusalem, they began to get lazy and did not offer their best to God. This made God sad. Even when we do not feel like God

is with us, He is working all things for our good. Jesus offered the greatest sacrifice that will ever be given so that we could live free from our failures. What was this sacrifice?

2. Four hundred years of silence followed Malachi's prophecy; God did not communicate to His people. This period of silence brings us to the New Testament where John the Baptist broke the silence.
  - John the Baptist promised that there is a Savior that will come and will never leave us once we accept Him into our hearts. Who is this Savior?
  - Jesus tells us and shows us that His presence will always be with us. Where are some places where you see or feel the presence of Jesus?

### **Discipleship through prayer**

- Take time to pray together as a family.
  - Spend time this week being focusing on God's presence, knowing that He hears your prayers.
- Ask each member of your family - adults included - to share one thing they would like prayer over. Have someone to pray for that person's request. Encourage your family to pray for that person for the entire week.
- Take time to pray independently for your children, for God to do his mighty work in their hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **Discipleship through modeling/action**

- Follow up throughout the week about the things you discussed.
- Pursue discipleship in your own life. Read Scripture, pray fervently, invest into community, and more. Model the ways of Christ as an example to your kids.

## Our Memory Verse for This Unit

### **OUR MEMORY VERSE FOR THIS UNIT (ENTITLED "THE PEOPLE RESTORED") IS 1 PETER 5:10.**

- *For our older kids we are doing the full verse:*
  - "After you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you." 1 Peter 5:10
- *For our younger kids we are doing an abbreviated version of the verse:*
  - "After you have suffered a little while, ... God ... will himself restore ... you." 1 Peter 5:10

While we are helping the kids engage with this Scripture on Sundays through fun activities and time together, we really encourage you to take time to continue to engage with the memorization of this Scripture at home. As always, the hope is not to have our kids simply know a lot of Scripture, but to engage in God's Word and allow Him to use it to transform the hearts of our kids!

## What's Coming Up?

- Stay connected by joining the [RLA Kids page on RLA Connect](#)
- Want weekly updates and occasional texts about special announcements? Text the word "Kids" to 323.859.1122. It really helps in preparing for Sunday and the rest of the week!

## We Want to Know and Serve You Better!

We love hearing from you! You can email [kids@realityla.com](mailto:kids@realityla.com) at any time with any thoughts, questions, or concerns. We also love to be praying with and alongside you, so please send those over as well.