

GROWING HOPE

GOD'S LOVE IN THE MESSAGE OF MALACHI

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Lesson 1

Hope Rooted in God's Love

What promises of hope have
you heard that were not true?

The Soil of Truth

As we look for hope in God,
what parts of His truth can be
difficult to accept?

Why might we reject His hope?

Hope Rooted in the Promise of God's Love

- God never forgets His promises

What tempts us to forget the promises of God?

How can it seem like He's forgotten?

Hope Rooted in the Promise of God's Love

- God never forgets His promises
- God never goes back on His promises

What are some specific promises from Scripture that we can cling to?

How do God's unchanging promises change how we respond to our circumstances?

Hope Rooted in the Independence of God's Love

- God's love is independent of human wisdom (Mal. 1:2–4)
- God's love is independent of human works

What misconceptions about God's love do we get from other people?

Why do we assume God's love depends on what we do?

Where's the hope in knowing
that God's love is independent
of our wisdom and works?

Hope Rooted in the Assurance of God's Love

Why do we question God's love? How does that questioning impact the way we reflect God's love?

What expressions of God's love should we remind ourselves of each day?

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Lesson 2

Hope Produces Respect for God

God's Nature Commands Respect

How does God as Lord of Hosts change how we think about our circumstances?

God's Nature Commands Respect

- God's absolute power

What do we tell people about
God by the way we show
hope?

God's Nature Commands Respect

- God's absolute power
- God's absolute control

God Commands Respect in Every Part of Life

- **Respecting God through worship**
 - Malachi 1:7–14
 - **Disobedient (1:7)**
 - **Disrespectful (1:8)**

What influences us to
disrespect God?

How does respect for God
change the way we worship?

How is God both approachable
and deserving of respect?

God Commands Respect in Every Part of Life

- **Respecting God through worship**
 - Malachi 1:7–14
 - **Disobedient (1:7)**
 - **Disrespectful (1:8)**
- **Respecting God through lifestyle**
 - Malachi 1:13–14

How can we show respect to God in practical ways each day?

Why is it difficult to live out respect for God?

God Commands Respect in Every Part of Life

- **God Commands Respect from All People**
 - Malachi 1:11–2:9

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Lesson 3

Hope Produces Love

To Love Faithfully, We Must First Love God

- **Loving God as our Father (2:10)**

How does knowing this about God's love change how we love others?

How are these qualities of God's love shown in the gospel through Jesus?

How can we fail to reflect these qualities in our relationships?

When we do reflect them, how does that grow hope?

To Love Faithfully, We Must First Love God

- **Loving God as our Father (2:10)**
- **Loving God as our Creator (2:10)**

How can we live like we have
no Creator?

To Love Faithfully, We Must First Love God

- **Obeying God as our Father and Creator**

How is obedience important to
worship?

To Love Faithfully, We Must First Love God

- **Obeying God as our Father and Creator**
- **Worshipping God as our Father and Creator**

To Love Faithfully, We Must Reflect God's Love to Others

- **Reflecting God's love in faithfulness**

How can it be difficult to love others the way God loves us?

When we fail to reflect God's love to others, what do we communicate about God and His gospel?

What is the connection between loving others and worshipping God?

- 1 John 2:9–11
- 1 John 3:10
- 1 John 3:14–15
- 1 John 4:20–21
- James 3:8–10

To Love Faithfully, We Must Reflect God's Love to Others

- **Reflecting God's love in faithfulness**
- **Reflecting God's love in truth**
- **Applying God's love by guarding your spirit (2:16)**

List internal attitudes that hurt
our relationships.

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Lesson 4

Hope Produces a Response to God

Important Background

- **The theme of Malachi**
- **Logical parallelism**
 - Malachi 2:17 and 3:13–15

Responding to God's Messengers with Ears Ready to Listen

- **To listen, we must stop talking**
- **To listen, we must want to know
who God is**

What are some ways we can talk too much to God?

How do our experiences affect how we view God's character?

How do we listen to God?

How can we practice listening to God?

Responding to God's Messengers with Humble Hearts Ready to Repent

- **Repentance because of the message and the messengers (3:1)**
- **Repentance because of judgment (3:2–5)**

What does hope-filled repentance look like?

What do we communicate about God and His gospel when we repent in hope?

Responding to God's Messengers with Lives Ready to Obey

- **Obedience is possible because God never changes (3:6–7)**

How hard is it to please people
who change their expectations?

How can you remind yourself
regularly that God's character
does not change?

Responding to God's Messengers with Lives Ready to Obey

- Obedience is possible because God never changes (3:6–7)
- Obedience is difficult because we forget God (3:8–10)

Responding to God's Messengers with Lives Ready to Obey

- Obedience is blessed by God
(3:10b–12)

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Lesson 5

Remember God's Return

God's Coming Rewards Those Who Are Faithful

- **The nature of those who are faithful**
 - They fear God (v. 16)
 - They encourage each other with God (v. 16)

How can we encourage each other with the names, characteristics, and promises of God?

What keeps us from openly
encouraging each other with
our knowledge of God?

God's Coming Rewards Those Who Are Faithful

- **The reward of those who are faithful**
 - They are remembered (v. 16)
 - They are counted as God's treasure (v. 17)

How does remembering our value to God change how we look at value in things or other people?

God's Coming Rewards Those Who Are Faithful

- **The reward of those who are faithful**
 - They are remembered (v. 16)
 - They are counted as God's treasure (v. 17)
 - They are the demonstration of God's justice (v. 18)

God's Coming Punishes Those Who Are Wicked

- **The promise of the judgment is a present warning**
- **The promise of the judgment is also a future reality**

How does the promise of
judgment produce hope?

God's Coming Heals Those Who Were Hurt

- **He brings light to those that are trapped in darkness**
- **He brings freedom to those that are oppressed**

Reminders for Those Who Wait for God

- **Remember to obey (4:4)**

What tempts us to forget to
obey?

Reminders for Those Who Wait for God

- Remember to obey (4:4)
- Find hope in God's power to restore (4:5–6)

Why is it easy for us to forget
God's power to restore?

What part do we have in God's
restorative work?

What do we say about God and
His gospel by seeking
restoration?

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