



Week 1: How have you loved us?

Read Malachi 1:1-5

- Initially, what stands out to you?

Watch the Video: Session I

- What did you see in the video that means the most to you?
- What questions do you have?

Our View of God

- Sometimes we perceive God in the Old Testament as someone who is strict or harsh in his punishments. Spend some time in small groups reading the following Old Testament passages and answer the question: what are these passages saying about God's love?
 - Exodus 15:1,11-13
 - Numbers 14:18-19
 - Psalm 5:7

Possible Doubt

- Questioning God's love was not unique in Malachi's day. Many Christians today are tempted to ask the same questions of God that Israel asked. Continue in small groups and discuss the following questions:
 - What was a time when you were tempted to doubt God's love? How did God see you through the situation?
 - What are some things you might share with others who doubt God's goodness or love?

Application (Large Group Discussion)

- As a parent, how would you respond if your child asked, "How have you loved me?"
- What evidence of God's love and grace can you point to in your life?
- What is significant about the fact that Jesus came to seek and save us?



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Read Hebrews 12:3-11

- What does the writer of Hebrews consider to be the relationship between love and discipline?
- Reflect on how you approach worship. How does the reality of God's choosing to show you grace instead of justice impact the way you worship?

From Loveless to Hope-filled

- In small groups, discuss the following questions:
 - How does Malachi 1:1-5 communicate hope for you? For someone in your life?
 - How can the realization that God loves you affect a hopeless situation in your life? How will it affect your worship?

Where do we go from here? (Large Group Discussion)

- One of the reasons God has saved us is so his glory can be declared beyond our borders. These may be geographical borders, but they may also be cultural, social, economic, or language borders. What are places or people that you would consider to be beyond your borders today?
- Take one of those people or places you just mentioned and commit to pray for them in the next week. Ask that God will help you be willing to go beyond your borders to proclaim his love.



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