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session page

Prepare the Way

Malachi 3:1-4 | Session 10.49

Before the Session

Facilitator: In advance of the session

- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Thoroughly review all the referenced resources for this session in advance.
- Encourage your group to listen to the FaithElement podcast ahead of the next session (Share the link via email or social media).
- Find web links for underlined items on this session's webpage at faithelement.net.

Context

Summarize or read [this article on a pharma executive](#) and remind the group that "We all know examples like this. It is easy to find villains in society, especially those who look to profit off others." Ask:

- - To what degree is there a moral obligation for companies or individuals to make money?
- - At what point do you think a company makes enough money?
- - What is most troublesome about the decisions made by the companies mentioned in the article?
- - Where does one find justice when people are hurt by the greed of others making profit at their expense?

Content

Read [Malachi 3:1-4](#), and watch the Bible Background Video before asking:

- - While we might read this prophecy as a precursor to John or Jesus, how do you think they originally saw it and why?
- - What did you think the first readers of this passage thought of as "justice?"
- - In what ways were they longing for a messenger to come and deliver justice, and how does that differ from our situation?
- - What does purifying justice, as described in this passage, look like to us?
- - To what degree do you think the people at that time were prepared to suffer at the coming of this messenger and why?
- - Reading this passage through modern eyes, do you see it more as a promise or a threat?

Closure

Watch together the ["Rushing Wind" video](#) and ask:

- - In what ways do the words and images of this video reflect our scripture passage?
- - In light of the call to be purified through Christ's coming, in what areas in our lives do we need refining and purifying?
- - What does this image of preparation and purification have to do with the Advent theme of "Peace?"
- - What do you think needs to change inside us in order for us to find peace?
- - How might we help others find peace?

Encourage the group to think about, think about how they can be refined and purified as you together listen to ["Oh Come Emmanuel"](#) and close by praying to be open to the messenger who comes during this season.

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