



MIND
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.
- 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

Start by asking:

- - What does Christmas mean for those who truly try to follow Jesus in a culture where it has become much more commercial and social than religious?
- - Considering the different meaning it has for us, how can we as believers prepare differently than others do?
- - How might the Advent season give us a unique way to prepare?

Content

Read Malachi 3:1-4, and watch the Bible Background Video before asking:

- - At what points can we foresee the ministries of John the Baptist and Jesus in this prophecy?
- - The people are waiting eagerly for God's messenger to come, but how will that arrival be different than they expect?
- - What kind of discord and conflict did Jesus bring, according to Matthew 10:34-39 and how do we as Jesus' followers also sometimes bring this kind of unrest?
- - What is the point of all this unrest and how will this restore the relationship between God and God's people?
- - In what ways is Jesus' message causing unrest today?

Closure

Continue by asking:

- - When have you heard or experienced something from God that caused unrest in your life or relationships?
- - Why might God allow these things to bring discord into our lives?
- - What kind of difficult messages might God be speaking to you or to our community this Advent season?
- - How might we use the season of Advent to be prepared – not just for the peaceful coming of Jesus in the manger, but also for the fiery and divisive Messiah who brings us healing through conviction and conflict?

Close with prayer.

Writer: Jon Parks