



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.
- Listen to the FaithElement podcast for this session.
- Find web links for underlined items on this session's webpage at faithelement.net.

Intro

Show the ["Bridge of Death" video](<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0D7hFHfLEyk>) and ask:

- - What do you think of this video and why?
- - What's the toughest test you've ever taken and how did you get through it?
- - If someone asked you the three most important things to know in order to get through life, what would you say and why?

Context

Gather in the center of your meeting area and tell the group that they are all going to have to take a multiple choice test. You will ask them a series of five questions, and give them a choice of two answers. Depending on their

answers, they will need to move to the left or right side of the room. After everyone has moved, you will reveal the correct answers and those who have answered correctly will return to the center for the next question, while the rest of the group sits down. If someone has missed a question, they are still free to share their best guesses of the correct answer to future questions, in order to help or hurt someone else's chances to get their answers right. No one should look up any answers during this contest!

After making sure that everyone understands the instructions begin asking the questions. You can make up your own, but be sure to make them as obscure as possible. Here are five sample questions (correct answers in **italics**):

- - How long is a rod, as a unit of measurement? (12.25 ft. or **16.5 ft.**)
- - Using stone as a unit of measurement, how much does the average male bulldog weigh? (**3.5 stone** or 4 stone)
- - Which city is windier: **Dallas** or Chicago?
- - Who was the shortest president: Benjamin Harrison or **James Madison**?
- - Which color has a higher wavelength: Indigo or **Umber**?

After determining the winners, ask the group:

- - How did you feel about this exercise and why?
- - What is an obscure fact that you know but doubt that many other people would know?
- - To what degree were other people more or less helpful as you made up your mind on these answers and why?
- - How do we know when we are responding properly to the things in life that test us?
- - What are some things that set us apart and make us more ready to respond to such life tests?

Content

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

- - What kind of messenger do you think the Jews were expecting, based on this passage?
- - What about this passage might have "tested" the earliest readers to hear?
- - What do you think it meant to be "purified" back then, and what might it mean now?
- - In what ways might this passage point to Jesus' coming?
- - Given that this passage is used on the "peace" Sunday of Advent, what do you think it says about peace?

Closure

Share this [video about Purifying gold](#) and ask:

- - What, if anything, did this video show you that was surprising, and what did you learn from it?
- - In what way does this video relate to the passage of scriptures we just discussed?
- - If someone was to break down your life, what kinds of impurities do you think they would try to filter out in the process?
- - What are some ways you work to refine yourself as you go through life?
- - How do you define "peace" and how might we need to refine our world if we are to actually find it?

Close with a prayer that everyone might find peace within themselves and refine it so that it may be shared with others.

Writer: David Adams