



**Worship Illustration: Script**  
**The Love Sub**  
**Prophets & Promises Part 2: Elijah - Malachi**  
**Unit 9, Lesson 47**

# Malachi and God's Message of Tithing

**Malachi 2:2; 3:1, 7-10**

**Running time:** Approximately 6 minutes

**Setting:** The Love Sub scripts (Lessons 35-52) will be set onboard a kaleidoscopic submarine in the late 1960's. The set is designed to look like the interior of an old submarine that also serves as a time travel device. There is a sliding board (the Time Tube) used for the entrance of visitors from the past and a ramp (or steps) to invite children up to participate in object lessons. There are two working portholes; the stage left porthole squirts water and the stage right porthole contains the Bible. Everything is painted in vibrant colors and has 1960's decor. For extra fun, build windows where characters and puppets can pop up unexpectedly.

**Characters:** Woodstock P. Havens is an inventor, explorer, and submarine pilot from the hippie era of the late 1960's. He is very "cool" and relaxed and he loves to study the prophets. Malachi is an elderly, wise, well-spoken, man of God. "Handsome" is a human hand (Actor's body is hidden except for his hand.) Handsome assists everyone by handing them props.

**Plot:** Dr. Woodstock is trying to teach Handsome about giving. Malachi arrives and tells them the message God gave him about tithing (giving 10%). We learn God asks us to tithe so we can honor Him and become closer with Him.

**Costumes:** Woodstock wears a tie-dyed shirt, wig, furry vest, glasses, and brightly colored pants and shoes. Malachi wears a Bible times robe, sandals, and a belt.

**Props:** Bible, flag, small football, offering

basket, nail clippers, remote control, two coins, stacks of play money

**Sound effects (SFX):**

1. Intro/outro music suggestion: 1960's Surfer music
2. Porthole music suggestion: Song about God's power such as "Power in the Blood"
3. Warning siren
4. Choice bell
5. Promise fanfare
6. Remote control beeps
7. Submarine alarm sounds, bells
8. 3 dings: Microwave timer dings or bells
9. Voiceover: Time Travel Alert

**Visual effects (VFX):**

1. Video Intro featuring animated submarine is available at ResourceWell.org.
2. Stage right porthole holds the Bible. When it opens, a light shines out and music plays.
3. Warning Lights: Red beacons
4. Warning Slide: ***"If you do not listen, and if you do not set your heart to honor My name," says the Lord Almighty, "I will send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings." Malachi 2:2a***
5. Choice Lights: Blinking stoplight
6. Choice Slide: ***"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house." Malachi 3:10a***
7. Promise Lights: Flashing lights  
Promise Slide: ***"Test Me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." Malachi 3:10b***
8. Fallback Slide: ***No matter where you are in time, God is good all the time!***

### **Adaptations:**

1. Sound Effects: instead of using recorded effects, have children make the sounds
2. Voiceovers: may be spoken off stage
3. This illustration is also available in storybook form located at ResourceWell.org

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**Video Intro:** (available at ResourceWell.org)  
(VFX: Scientific images, SFX: Newsreel music) **Since the dawn of man, scientists have longed to travel through time! In the late 1960's a crack team of geniuses combined their talents to attempt to break the time barrier. In the Florida Keys, Dr. Woodstock P. Havens was given the task of building a special space shuttle— (SFX: Record scratch) Woodstock: Yeah, but I decided to make a submarine instead, man! (SFX: Intro music, VFX: Animated sub) So, come on and join me as we float through time. Climb aboard the Love Sub!**

### **Woodstock**

**What's happenin', dudes and dudettes? Que pasa? Look out below! Welcome back to the Love Shuttle. Dudes, I am so glad you're here. I've been trying to teach Handsome about giving and tithing. Isn't that right, Handsome? (SFX: 3 dings) (Handsome pops up and gives thumbs up.) We're learning that tithing is about so much more than just money. It's about giving back to God. Giving is a way that we can say "thank you" to God for all that He gives to us. That's why our offering is so important. It's our chance to give back to God. Do you want to try it, Handsome? (Handsome shakes fist "no.") Oh, come on Handsome, it'll be fun. I'll hold the offering basket and you give to God. (Handsome puts in nail clippers.) Nail clippers? Handsome, God doesn't want your dirty old nail clippers! Try again. (Handsome puts in remote control.) That's the Time Travel Remote!**

### **Voiceover**

**Time Travel Alert! Time Travel Alert! We have a time travel visitor in 3-2-1! (SFX: Submarine alarm sounds, bells)**

### **Woodstock**

**Uh-oh! The remote went off! We're getting a visitor!**

### **Malachi**

**Whoa! Lord God, where have you sent your servant today?**

### **Woodstock**

**Greetings, old dude! Welcome aboard the Love Sub! I'm Dr. Woodstock P. Havens!**

### **Malachi**

**Hello, my name is Malachi.**

### **Woodstock**

**Malachi? I've heard of you! You're like an expert on giving! I was just teaching my friend Handsome about giving.**

### **Malachi**

**What a coincidence, the Lord sent me to teach the high priests His message about giving.**

### **Woodstock**

**Groovy, baby, let's open up the Power Source and check that out! (Opens stage right porthole and removes Bible, SFX: Porthole music, VFX: Beam of light shines from porthole) Here it is! Wow, Malachi, this says God sent you with a message for all of Israel!**

### **Malachi**

**Yes, that's how important giving is to God. He wants all of His people to know that giving is a way to show Him respect and honor!**

### **Woodstock**

**Is that what you said to the high priests?**

**Malachi**

**Yes, and I also said:**

***"If you do not listen, and if you do not set your heart to honor my name," says the Lord Almighty, "I will send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings."***

(SFX: Warning siren, VFX: Warning lights and slide)

**Woodstock**

**Hey, Malachi, you set off the warning lights.**

**Malachi**

**Well, God is warning us to put Him first in our hearts. That is why God commands us to tithe.**

**Woodstock**

**Oh, we're learning about tithing! That's when we give one tenth of our riches to God's house. Kids, how much do we give?**  
(Children respond.)

**Malachi**

**That's right! God asks us to give Him 10% out of the 100% that He gives to us.**

**Woodstock**

**Yes that's like ten cents of every dollar.**  
(SFX: 3 rings) (Handsome pops up.) **Oh hey, Handsome! Malachi, this is my friend Handsome that I was telling you about.**

**Malachi** (they shake hands)

**Pleased to meet you, Handsome.**

**Woodstock**

**What's that Handsome? You want to give your tithe? Great! Here's the basket.**  
(Handsome puts in a dime.) **Handsome! That's ten cents!**

**Malachi**

**Not ten cents, Handsome. God asks us to give ten percent. That is equal to one tenth. Our offerings are really important to God. He said:**

***"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house."***

(SFX: Choice bell, VFX: Choice lights and slide)

**Woodstock**

**Malachi, you set off the choice lights!**

**Malachi**

**Of course! The wisest choice we can make is to obey God's wishes and honor Him with our gifts. In fact, it's the one area in the Bible that God asks us to test Him.**

**Woodstock**

**God actually asks us to test Him?**

**Malachi**

**Yes! Let us search for His promise!**

**Woodstock**

**Found it! Read it, Malachi!**

**Malachi**

***"Test Me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."***

(SFX: Promise signal) (VFX: Promise lights and slide)

**Woodstock**

**Did you hear that, Handsome? God promised us that if we honor Him by giving our tithes and offerings, He'll give us more blessings than we can handle!**  
(Handsome tosses stacks of play money out of his hiding place.)

**Malachi**

**Wow, Handsome, it looks like you are becoming a godly giver!** (Handsome motions impatiently to receive a financial blessing.)

**Woodstock**

**Handsome, God didn't promise that the blessings would be money!** (Handsome snaps his finger in disappointment.)

**Malachi**

**That's right. God has so many ways to bless us! Money is just one of them!**

**Woodstock**

**Yeah! And when we trust God with our most excellent treasures, we grow much closer to Him and we get to help build His kingdom. Those are the greatest blessings of all!** (Handsome gives a thumbs up.)

**Malachi**

**It's good to receive God's blessings, but the reason we give our tithe is to show our love and respect to God.**

**Woodstock**

**That's right! Dude, giving is all about love. Remember, God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son.**

**Malachi**

**That reminds me of the other part of God's message: "*The Lord you are seeking will come.*" In the mean time, live thankful lives that truly respect and honor God as the Lord of All.**

**Woodstock**

**Thanks Malachi! Okay kids, God has given us the challenge! Let's give our tithes and offerings to God's house and watch the blessings flow! Right, Handsome?**

(Handsome gives a thumbs up.) **Until next time, kids, "No matter where you are in time," say it with us, "God is good all the time!"** (SFX: Intro/outro music, VFX: Fallback slide)

(exit)