



Malachi and God's Message of Tithing

Lesson Aim: To know giving our tithes and offerings brings us closer to God.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God Who Is Lord of All

THE WORD

Bible Story: Malachi 2:2; 3:7-10

What He has done: God challenged His people to give Him their tithes and offerings.

Key Verse: Malachi 3:10

THE WAY

Christ Connection: 2 Corinthians 9:7

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9

Unit 9: The Prophets and God's Sovereignty

	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
43	Ezekiel and the Dry Bones, Ezekiel 18:30; 36:26-28; 37:4-6	God gave Ezekiel the dry bones vision and the promise of a new heart.	To understand what it means to have a new heart and a new life. (Salvation Message)
44	Daniel's Friends and the Fiery Furnace, Daniel 3:12-29; 4:3	God was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace and protected them from the flames.	To exemplify a life that puts God first.
45	Daniel and the Lions' Den, Daniel 6:10, 14-16, 19-23, 26-27	God protected Daniel from the lions.	To live a life of prayer in a trusting relationship with God.
46	Haggai and the Temple, Haggai 1:7-9; 2:4, 9, 23	God sent a message telling the people to give careful thought to their ways.	To know the Holy Spirit will help us put God first and make good choices.
47	Malachi and God's Message of Tithing, Malachi 2:2; 3:7-10	God challenged His people to give Him their tithes and offerings.	To know giving our tithes and offerings brings us closer to God.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-28. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for the promise of Your return. As we look forward to that time, help us worship You wholeheartedly in the way we use our time and money. Amen."



**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Malachi, Malachi, Where's Your Scroll?	Chair, scroll (roll of paper tied with ribbon)
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Chosen People" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "At the Name of Jesus" "I Am the Way" "Not by Might" "Search Me, O God" "You Will Seek Me" "Prepare to Meet Your God" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "I Love You, Lord" "Fairest Lord Jesus" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Worship Jamz Series Shout Praises Kids: Hymns
		Worship Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:3	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 47 The Love Sub script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Malachi 2:2; 3:7-10	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster
		Christ Connection: 2 Corinthians 9:7	
	Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards	
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treats—Offerings Reminder, Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Chosen People," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Math Munchies	Small candies, cookies, or crackers
	Up to 10	Game: Tithe Toss	Play money, floor tape or poster board, basket, four beanbags
	Up to 15	Craft: Tithe Jars	Small jar or other container with a lid, stickers, colored paper, assorted craft supplies, glue, crayons or markers, optional: paint
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Praise Tag	Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Four Praise Corners	Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster, paper, marker
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Date with story title or name printed on card

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.
Meet & Greet Question: What would you do with one million dollars?

GAME: MALACHI, MALACHI, WHERE'S YOUR SCROLL?

Purpose: Children will play a version of "Doggy, Doggy, Where's Your Bone" which will introduce them to Malachi and his message from God about tithing.

Supplies: Chair, scroll (roll of paper tied with ribbon)

Prepare: Place the chair in the front of the play area facing away from the children.

Today, we will learn about the last book in the Old Testament. The name of the book is Malachi. In Bible times, people wrote down stories about God and messages from God onto scrolls. Malachi was a prophet who wrote God's message on a scroll.

Directions:

1. Choose one child to be Malachi. Give him or her the scroll.
2. Malachi places the scroll under the chair and sits down in the chair, eyes closed and his or her back to the other children.
3. The remaining children stand against a wall behind Malachi.
4. Choose a child to get the scroll.
5. Silently, that child sneaks up behind Malachi, takes the scroll, and returns to where he or she was standing.
6. The children hold their hands behind their backs (pretending to hide the scroll) and chant:
**"Malachi, Malachi, where's your scroll?
Somebody stole it, we've been told!
Guess who stole your scroll from you?"**
6. Malachi stands up, faces the other children, and has three chances to guess who took the scroll.
 - a. If Malachi guesses correctly, he or she may choose the next Malachi.
 - b. If Malachi guesses incorrectly, the child who took the scroll becomes Malachi.
7. Play as often as you like or until each child has a turn as Malachi.

God gave Malachi a message for the people. The message was not about stealing scrolls, but about stealing from God. God said those who were not giving their tithes and offerings to God's house were robbing Him. A tithe is giving one tenth of our riches to God. God promised to bless all those who would bring their whole tithe into God's house. Let's find out more about this promise and how you can tithe, too!



The God who is Lord of all

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.

Today, we worship the God who is Lord of all. He is the Lord who gives us every good thing. He pours out His blessings on us. What are some ways the Lord has blessed us? (Children respond.) **The Lord blesses us with His loving kindness, forgiveness, second chances, friendships, family, money, treasures, teachers, the Bible, sports, fun, and more. It is right to give Him thanks for every blessing. One way to thank Him is to worship and respect Him.**



To worship is to show God we love Him. Let's begin worship by singing to Him. Sing: "I Love You, Lord."

As an act of respect, we give our offerings to His church just as He commanded us. Today, as we give our offering, let's give thanks to God and praise Him for choosing us to belong to Him. Sing the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Chosen People" or a song of thanks as the offering is collected.



In Malachi's message from God, God spoke of opening heaven and pouring out blessings upon us. Blessings are gifts from God. Read Ephesians 1:3.



What are some of the blessings God has given you? (Children respond.) **Let's give thanks to God for blessing us with His Holy Spirit. Sing: "Not By Might."** You may also choose to sing songs that focus on giving thanks for our blessings.



Perform The Love Sub script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 9, Lesson 47.



God wanted the people to tithe

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned Haggai and Zechariah told the people to put God first and finish rebuilding the temple. One hundred years after Haggai told the people to put God first, Malachi gave the same message and explained how to do it. If a Bible Timeline is available, point to Malachi (Circa 430 B.C.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson. **Malachi's message was for the people of Jerusalem.** If a map is available, point to Jerusalem, Israel.

Malachi is the last book of the Old Testament. After Malachi gave his messages from God, there were over 400 years of silence until Jesus was born. If a Bible Timeline is available, point to 400 Years of Silence (Circa 400-0 B.C.). **Malachi gave the people God's message that He loved them and the Lord they were seeking would come. Malachi told them how to honor God—that means to show Him the respect He deserves.**



If you brought your Bible, open it now and share it with others. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Malachi 2:2; 3:7-10.

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

Let's begin with Malachi 2:2 and hear God's WARNING. Read.

The people were not honoring God or putting Him first. God told Malachi the ones who honored Him would be His treasures. He explained that one way for the people to put Him first was by giving their offerings at the temple. Let's read the CHOICE and PROMISE God made to the people in Malachi 3:7-10. Read.



God wants our tithes and offerings

THE WAY

Is money important to you? (Children respond.) **Did you know we can use our money to show God how important He is to us?** (Children respond.) **God gives us a way to do that by giving our money as an offering for God's house, which is the church. If you have no money of your own, what offering can you give to God?** (We can give an offering of thanks; we can give our time.) **What are some ways we can serve God by giving our time?** (Children respond.)

Over one thousand years before Malachi lived, God made a rule that His people were to bring a certain amount of their riches or crops. That amount is called our tithes. Where did God tell the people to bring their tithes and extra offerings? (Into God's storehouse.) God's storehouse is a name for God's house, which today is the church.

Malachi reminded the people that God wants us to choose to obey His rule. Giving our money to God's house is a way to worship Him and show we love Him. When the people kept their tithes and offerings for themselves, God said it was like robbing Him of what we owe Him. God made everything, so everything we have belongs to Him, including our money and treasures.

Malachi 3:10 says we should not test God, except in one way. Who can tell me what it is? (To see if He will bless those who tithe to His house.) **God challenges us to make the choice to bring all our tithes into His storehouse to see if He will keep His promise to bless us.**

What does God promise to pour out on those who give their tithes to His house? (Blessings.) **Does God say what those blessings will be?** (No.) **Blessings are God's gifts to us. He does not promise to bless us with more money or good fortune. What kinds of blessings do you think we might receive?** (Children respond.) **When we trust God with our treasures, we grow much closer to Him and we get to help build His kingdom. Those are the greatest blessings of all!**



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

Over 400 years after God told Malachi to challenge the people to give their tithes and offerings to His house, Paul explained more about giving. Let's check it out.



Everyone, place your Bible on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: 2 Corinthians 9:7. **Let's find this scripture.** Read 2 Corinthians 9:7.

God cares about our hearts. He wants our hearts to tell us how much to give. What kind of giver does God love? (A cheerful giver.) **God wants us to enjoy giving to the church. The church uses offering money to help build God's kingdom. What makes you happy about giving your money to the church?** (Children respond.)

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is an Offerings Reminder. Keep this reminder card in a special place. Each time you make an offering to God, write it down on the card. Remember, there are many types of offerings such as offerings of thanks, money, and time.

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 47 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of yourself giving one tenth of your riches to God's house or giving your thanks and your time to serve Him.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Chosen People," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: MATH MUNCHIES

Purpose: Children will practice calculating 10 percent to better understand tithing.

Snack Suggestion: Small candies, cookies, or crackers

What did Malachi say God wanted the people to do? (Give their tithes and offerings to God.) **How much should we tithe to God?** (Ten percent, which is one tenth or one out of every ten.) **Let's practice! I am going to give you ten pieces of our snack. Pick out one tenth of your snack and put it in this cup.** Place an empty cup in the center of the room.

Directions:

1. Give each child ten snack pieces and a drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Children put one tenth of their snack (1 item) in a cup and eat the rest.
4. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"What can you give to God as an offering?"**

GAME: TITHE TOSS

Purpose: To practice tithing by earning pretend money and giving one tenth to God's house.

Supplies: Play money, floor tape or poster board, basket, four beanbags

Prepare: Mark a starting line for each team. A few feet past each starting line, draw a circular target with four circles inside of each other or draw the target on a large piece of posterboard. The center circle should be slightly larger than a beanbag. Vary the distance from the starting line based on the age and ability of children. Starting in the middle, label each circle a monetary value such as \$20, \$10, \$5, and \$1. Each team's target should be identical.

Teacher Tips: Make beanbags by filling palm-size plastic or cloth bags with beans or sand and sealing them closed. If pretend money is not available, keep track of the amount earned by each team on a poster board, chalkboard, or dry erase board.

How were the people robbing God? (By not giving their tithes and offerings.) **What is a tithe?** (Giving one tenth of our riches to God's house.) **What does God promise to do when we tithe to Him?** (Give us more blessings than we know what to do with.) **Let's earn some pretend money and practice tithing!**

Directions:

1. Form two teams. Each team lines up behind their start line. Give each team two beanbags.
2. On your signal, the first child on each team tosses one beanbag at a time toward the team's circle. Total the amounts where the beanbags landed and give each child that amount of play money.
3. Play until each child has a turn tossing the beanbags.
4. Designate a treasurer on each team and have them count the team's money.
5. Have teams calculate one tenth of their money and put in the basket as a representation of tithing to God's house. Assist younger teams in calculating one tenth.
6. Play again, as time allows.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: TITHE JARS

Purpose: To create a jar or other container for collecting and transporting tithes to God's house.

Supplies: Small jar or other container with a lid, stickers, colored paper, assorted craft supplies, glue, crayons or markers, optional: paint

Prepare: Cut a slot big enough for a quarter in the container or lid.

Teacher Tip: If you do not have enough small jars or other containers, substitute paper bags, envelopes, or create your own paper box or envelope.

Which prophet did we learn about today? (Malachi.) **What was Malachi's warning from God?** (Set your heart to honor God.) **What could they choose to do to honor God?** (Give their tithes and offerings to God.) **What did God promise to do for those who gave their tithes and offerings?** (Give them more blessings than they could handle.) **Let's make a tithe jar. Save one tenth of the money you earn or receive in your tithe jar, then use it to bring your tithe into God's house.**

Directions:

1. Cover container with paint or wrap it in colored paper.
2. Decorate with assorted craft supplies, crayons, and markers.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9

GAME: PRAISE TAG

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster

Read the Bible Memory Verse. **In our Bible Memory Verse, Peter gives four titles to describe people who believe in Jesus. What are they?** (A chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a people belonging to God.) **What is the reason given for why God has chosen people to belong to Him?** (So we may declare His praises.) **The verse says God brought us out of darkness, which we call sin, and into His light, which is life with the Holy Spirit living in our hearts and leading us to do things God's way. When we have Jesus in our hearts, we want to praise God! Let's declare our praise to Him while we play Praise Tag!**

Directions:

1. Choose one child to be "It."
2. On your signal, "It" chases the other children and attempts to tag (touch) one of them.
3. If "It" successfully tags another child, then the tagged child becomes the new "It."
4. Children can be safe from being tagged for 10 seconds by shouting a sentence of praise to God: **"I praise God for a truth about who God is or what He has done."** The child then sits and counts aloud to 10. Children may do this as often as they like. You may choose to require children think of a new praise each time.

Limited space? Children sit in a circle. "It" spins a spinner from any board game (or make your own using a paper plate, a paper fastener, and a straw). The child the arrow points to shouts a praise sentence to God. That child becomes the new "It" and spins the arrow. Play until each child has at least one turn shouting praise to God. To add difficulty, require the praises be related to a specific topic such as the previous week's Bible story, creation, family, etc.

GAME: FOUR PRAISE CORNERS

Purpose: Children memorize the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster, tape, four signs titled as follows: Chosen People, Royal Priesthood, Holy Nation, People Belonging to God

Prepare: Post one of the four signs in each of the four corners of the play area.

Directions:

1. Point out the four corners as the four titles Peter gave to describe people who believe in Jesus.
2. Choose a Caller to stand in the middle of the room, close his or her eyes, and count aloud to 10.
3. The other children rush to stand in a corner before the Caller says, "10."
4. The Caller keeps his or her eyes closed and calls out a corner name.
5. The children in that corner recite the Bible Memory Verse together. As needed, they may read from the Bible Memory Verse poster.
6. Choose another Caller and play again. Allow all the children to remain in the game.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Prophets & Promises Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Elijah through Malachi. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and He has done.

Daniel (Circa 580 B.C.) While captive in Babylon, Daniel stayed faithful to God and became well respected by four different Babylonian kings. He advised the kings and explained their dreams. What did Daniel do when his enemies tricked King Darius into making a law against praying to God? (He prayed anyway.) How did God save Daniel in the lions' den? (An angel shut their mouths.) When the king saw this, He ruled that everyone must respect Daniel's God.

Haggai and Zechariah (Circa 530 B.C.) God sent the prophets Haggai and Zechariah to encourage God's people who returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple after their exile in Babylon. Zerubbabel was the governor of Judah who made sure the temple was rebuilt. Haggai warned them to give careful thought to their selfish ways so they would choose to put God first and rebuild His temple. Zechariah told the people that our power comes not by might, nor by power, but by God's Spirit. The temple was completed in 516 B.C.

Malachi (Circa 430 B.C.) Malachi was the last prophet to speak before the birth of Jesus. He gave God's message that the people were robbing God by not bringing their tithes and offerings to Him. What is a tithe? (A tithe is giving one tenth of our riches to God's house.) God challenged the people to tithe and see how God would bless them.

How to create a Bible Timeline from Elijah through Malachi:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the Unit 10 cards for Prophets & Promises Lessons 48-52.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Elijah – Malachi: Elijah (Circa 870-845 B.C.) > Elisha (Circa 845-800 B.C.) > Joel (Circa 830 B.C.) > Jonah (Circa 781 B.C.) > Amos (Circa 760 B.C.) > Isaiah (Circa 710 B.C.) > Micah (Circa 700 B.C.) > Zephaniah (Circa 630 B.C.) > Jeremiah (Circa 626 B.C.) > Habakkuk (Circa 603 B.C.) > Ezekiel (Circa 593 B.C.) > Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Circa 580 B.C.) > Daniel (Circa 580 B.C.) > Haggai and Zechariah (Circa 530 B.C.) > Malachi (Circa 430 B.C.)

Unit 10: 400 Years of Silence (Circa 400-2 B.C.) > The Birth of Jesus (Circa 7-2 B.C.)