

Questioning God's Justice

This 5-day devotional guide is based on Malachi 2:17-3:6 and will help you prepare your heart for the upcoming Sunday sermon, "Questioning God's Justice," in the preaching series, "How's Your Heart?" It may also be used as a guide for family devotions and is for the week ending Saturday, May 23, 2026.

Monday

Scripture: Malachi 2:17

Questions for Reflection

- What complaint did the people make about God's justice?
- How did their words 'weary' the Lord?
- Where are you tempted to say evil is good or God is absent?
- How can you rehearse God's past faithfulness when justice feels delayed?

Questions for Children

- What did people say about God?
- Is God always fair?

Prayer Prompt

Righteous God, please forgive our doubting words. Teach us to trust Your justice and timing in all things. Amen.

Tuesday

Scripture: Malachi 3:1

Questions for Reflection

- Who are the 'messenger' and 'the Lord' who will come to His temple?
- How does this promise answer the complaint of 2:17?
- What would it mean for you to prepare the way for the Lord today?
- Where do you need to welcome God's presence into your routines?

Questions for Children

- Who is coming to God's temple?
- How can we get ready for God?

Prayer Prompt

Lord, prepare our hearts to welcome Your presence. Make us ready for Your coming work among us. Amen.

Wednesday

Scripture: Malachi 3:2-3

Questions for Reflection

- What images describe the Lord's purifying work (refiner's fire, launderer's soap)?
- Whom does He purify first, and why?
- Where do you need God's refining grace right now?
- How will you submit to His cleansing this week?

Questions for Children

- What does fire do to metal?
- Who makes us clean for God?

Prayer Prompt

Purifying Lord, refine our hearts. Cleanse us so our worship and service please You. Amen.

Thursday

Scripture: Malachi 3:4

Questions for Reflection

- What is the result of God's refining work on worship?
- How does purified worship delight the Lord?
- What change in your worship would honor God more?
- How can your church pursue purity and joy in gathered praise?

Questions for Children

- What kind of worship makes God happy?
- How can we sing to God with clean hearts?

Prayer Prompt

Father, teach us to worship You with pure hearts and joyful obedience. Amen.

Friday

Scripture: Malachi 3:5-6

Questions for Reflection

- What sins does God confront, and what do they reveal about His justice?
- Why is "I the LORD do not change" good news for covenant people?

- Where do you need courage to stand against injustice?
- How will you rest in God's unchanging character today?

Questions for Children

- What wrong things does God say no to?
- Does God ever change?

Prayer Prompt

Unchanging Lord, help us stand for what is right and trust in Your steady, loyal, unchanging love. Amen.