

LEADER TRAINING

► FOLLOWING GOD MEANS LETTING HIM PURIFY US.

SCRIPTURE | Malachi 3:1-6; 4:1-6

1 CENTRAL TRUTH

God's character is always the same—always good. God's people were distant from Him because they had changed. If you once walked closely with God and now feel distant, evaluate when and how you changed and draw near to Him again.

2 KEY QUESTION

SINCE GOD DOESN'T CHANGE (3:6), WHAT CAUSES DISTANCE IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM?

3 KEEP IN MIND

Some of our students have been walking faithfully with God for a while. This is great! But sometimes, these students (like us) forget the awful state they were in when God saved them. Forgetting where we came from is dangerous because we forget that we were dead in our sin and slaves to sin. Forgetting can lead to our students developing a mentality that their goodness comes from their own ability and effort instead of from knowing Jesus and being transformed by Him. But when our students take time to remember where they came from, they are filled with gratitude. Helping them remember that they were once spiritually dead and without hope can remind them to boast only in Jesus because without Him, they would be lost (2 Cor. 10:17).

4 APPLICATION

HOW HAS GOD DIRECTED US IN THE SAME WAY HE DID ISRAEL (4:4)—TO REMEMBER? WHAT HAS HE GIVEN US TO HELP US?

5 THE WIN

FOR THE STUDENT: When students forget God's faithfulness—how He kept His promise to send a Savior—then they forget the costly price for sin. If they forget God's Word, then they struggle with their identity; they forget how to live as God's people. But through the Holy Spirit, students can remember all these things.

FOR THE LEADER: Celebrate the progress you've made with your students through Scripture with this last passage from the Old Testament! Spend time reflecting together on how you've seen Jesus in the Torah (the Law), the Prophets, and the Writings.