



## Gospel Community Study Questions

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Malachi | Electing Love

**Key Passages:** *Malachi 1:1-5; Romans 1:18-32*

**Big Idea:** *God demonstrates his love for his discouraged people in how he chose them*

### Read

Read through all four chapters of Malachi together. It might be helpful to stop and pray together after reading to ask the Lord to minister to you through his Word over the next five weeks.

### Background

*Malachi is a prophetic word from God to his people who've returned from exile to Jerusalem around 430BC. The temple and city walls have been rebuilt and there is a lot of religious freedom under Persian rule, but God's people still find themselves living in the midst of a pagan culture, opposed to God, and they're struggling to remain faithful to God.*

### Discuss

Spend some time discussing how the situation of Malachi's people reflects our own situation and where we feel the struggle to remain faithful.

In v1, we understand that Malachi is bringing an "oracle" or a "heavy prophetic message" from God to his people. What is biblical prophecy and what does it teach us about how God engages with his people?

God is going to challenge his people over their unfaithfulness, but before he does, he shares his deep love for them. Discuss how the people's response that follows in v2 often mirrors our own posture to God's work in our lives.

In v2-4 the Lord demonstrates how he has loved his people through his electing love. Share together what you understand about the doctrine of election and how it helps us get some sense of the depth of God's love for us. *Romans 1:18-25 might help with your discussion.*

### Pray

Read verse 5 and use this as a prayer over your group, asking the Lord to help you respond to his love rightly this coming week.

### Coming Up

Next week we're looking at Bringing your best to God in Malachi 1:6-2:9