

Countdown to Jesus

“Messenger”

GETTING STARTED

ICE BREAKER: What gives you the greatest hope as you approach Christmas?

KEY THOUGHT: ***Repentance is the red carpet for the coming of God***

GETTING THE POINT

Read Mark 1:2 and Malachi 3:1

1. The formula “it is written” is common in the Gospels when the Hebrew Scriptures are quoted. How does this way of introducing quotations from the Scripture communicate their authority?
2. Who is the “messenger” mentioned here? Whose way is being prepared?
3. Why was it appropriate for a messenger to prepare the way for Christ’s coming?
4. How does Mark’s use of Malachi 3:1 point to the fact that Jesus is God?

GETTING DEEPER

Read Malachi 4:5-6

1. What is great about the coming judgment day of the Lord? What is dreadful?
2. What are the two optional ways people have to respond to the prophet Elijah, according to verse 6?
3. What do these verses reveal about the heart of God for people?

GETTING PERSONAL

1. Describe the hope you feel when you are trusting in a promise, a foretelling, from the Lord. Give an example of such a promise, if you can.
2. Share about a time you were losing hope that a promise of God would come true for you. What did you do?
3. Do you find it easier to repent before God, or to reject Him? Why do think this is so?
4. What are ways we can reinforce our confidence in God’s promises, when that confidence is slipping?

PRAY...

that many will respond with repentance to the coming of Christ this Christmas season.