

THE PROPHET MALACHI

MALACHI



CHRIST CONNECTION: Malachi told the people to get people ready for Jesus, God’s Son, who came to save people from their sins.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: These are written so you may believe Jesus is God’s Son. John 20:31

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- God’s people were in the land God promised, but the teachers were not telling the truth about God.
- God sent Malachi to help the people know that God would give good things to those who did right and punish those who did wrong.
- Malachi told the people to get ready for the special person God would send—Jesus!

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS: God’s people were in the land God promised. The people waited for God to bless them, but nothing happened. Some people wondered if God still loved them. So God sent a man named Malachi. The teachers were not telling the truth about God. Malachi said one day God would come to give good things to those who did the right things and punish those who did the wrong things. God also said He would send someone special to get people ready for an even more special person—Jesus! God said the people who love Him will be happy, like calves jumping around! After Malachi, no more messengers came from God for about 400 years.



LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide **handheld Bibles** for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Malachi 1. Show the **Bible Story Picture Poster** as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the **Key Passage Phrase Card**. Pray for the babies.

1 SING THE SCRIPTURE

Sing to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”:

“These are written
So you may believe
Jesus is God’s Son.
John 20:31.”

SAY “Who is God’s Son? Yes! Jesus. Malachi told the people to get ready for Jesus. Jesus came to save people from their sins.”

2 PLAY PEEKABOO

Gather **soft scarves**. Engage babies in peekaboo. Say the first part of the gospel gem: “Malachi told the people to get ready for the special person God would send.” Then hide and reveal your face, saying, “It was Jesus!”

SAY “Did God send Malachi to help? Yes, God sent Malachi to help the people know that God would give good things to those who did right and punish those who did wrong. Malachi told the people to get ready for Jesus.”

3 CLAP AND CHEER FOR JESUS

Sit babies in leaders’ laps or in **horseshoe-shaped pillows**. Show babies how to clap and cheer. Assist younger babies by gently clapping their hands or lifting them above their heads. Read the gospel gems. Help the babies clap and cheer each time you say the names “God” or “Jesus.”

SAY “Who did God send? Malachi! Malachi helped the people know God would give good things to those who did right and punish those who did wrong. We can happily celebrate Jesus, who always did everything right!”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s **Big Picture Card**. Repeat the Christ Connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Malachi 1. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

2 FIND SHOES

Invite children to remove their shoes and place them in a pile. One at a time, assist toddlers in finding their shoes. Assist toddlers as needed in putting on their shoes. If interest allows, form two teams and make two piles. See which team can find their shoes the fastest. Review the Bible story, focusing on how Malachi helped the people get ready for Jesus.

SAY “ When we leave our homes, we have to get ready! You might put on your shoes like we did today. Who did Malachi help the people get ready for? Yes, Jesus! ”

3 PLAY WITH ANIMALS

Provide play dough and toy calves. Explain that when you say the words “God” or “Jesus,” toddlers will make the animals jump happily, leaving footprints in the dough. Read the story.

SAY “ Malachi said God would send an even more special person. Who did Malachi say God would send? You are right; Malachi said God would send Jesus. God said the people who loved Him would be happy, like jumping calves! ”

4 MATCH NUMBERS

Provide large plastic interlocking blocks. Write 400 on an index card cut to the shape of a triple interlocking block. Tape the card to the side of a triple block. Then write the numbers 4, 0, and 0 on index cards, and tape them to single blocks (one number per block). Encourage the toddlers to line up or stack the blocks so the numbers read 400. Retell the Bible story.

SAY “ God’s people were back in Israel, but the teachers were not telling the truth about God. God sent Malachi to help the people. After Malachi, do you remember how long the people had to wait for another messenger? Yes, Malachi was the last messenger God sent for more than 400 years. ”

5 LOCATE ISRAEL

Tape a large Bible-times map to a table. Place a star-shaped sticky note on Israel. Provide people figurines and toy boats. Invite toddlers to help the “people” get to Israel. Acknowledge that people cannot walk across water; we need boats! Allow toddlers to explore the map, explaining the difference in color from blue for water to brown or green for the land. Discuss how Israel is the land where God promised His people would live.

SAY “ Did God’s people return back to the land God promised? Yes! God’s people returned to Israel. The teachers were not telling the truth about God, so God sent Malachi to help the people. ”

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KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: These are written so you may believe Jesus is God's Son.
John 20:31

1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: JUMP AND FREEZE

Invite toddlers to jump around in the middle of the room. Play **upbeat worship music** on an **electronic device**. Invite toddlers to jump around like calves as the music plays. Encourage toddlers to freeze when the music stops.

SAY “ How did God say the people who loved Him would feel? Right! God said they would feel happy—like calves jumping around. God sent Malachi to tell the people to get people ready for Jesus, God's Son, who came to save people from their sins. ”

2 SING THE SCRIPTURE

Sing to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”:

“These are written
So you may believe
Jesus is God's Son.
John 20:31.”

SAY “ Who is God's Son? Yes, Jesus! Our key passage phrase reminds us that the Bible was written so we can believe the truth—Jesus is God's Son! ”

3 DELIVER A MESSAGE

Print and fold the **Bible Story Picture Poster**. Invite toddlers to be “messengers.” Encourage toddlers to “deliver” the folded picture to someone else in the room. Guide toddlers to say a part of the Christ Connection as they deliver the message. Ensure the last toddler delivers the message to a leader to unfold. Explore the picture as you retell the Bible story.

SAY “ Malachi was God's messenger. He had a special message to deliver. Do you remember what it was? Yes! Malachi told the people to get ready for Jesus. Our Bible Story Picture Poster reminds us of Malachi's message for the people. ”

4 GLUE HEART PUZZLES

Prior to the session, prepare multiple **large paper hearts** cut into four sections (one heart per toddler). Provide **glue sticks**, **paper**, and the heart pieces. Encourage toddlers to glue the heart back together onto their papers as you retell the Bible story.

SAY “ God's people waited for His blessing, but nothing happened. Some people thought God stopped loving them. Does God ever stop loving us? No, God never stops loving us. God sent us Jesus, to save us from our sins. ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church's security procedures. Give parents today's **Big Picture Card** to reinforce today's Bible story, Christ Connection, and gospel gems throughout the week.