God gave two indictments against His people at the beginning: they showed Him no honor, and they showed Him no fear. In fact, they despised His name. The people did this to God by offering crippled, lame, or blinded animals to the Lord rather than the perfect, blameless sacrifice He requested. God had challenged the Israelites for their poor sacrifices, their lack of worship, their idolatry, and their faithlessness. The root of the problem was the heart. Despite being robbed, God’s love for them was relentless and He continued to press into their hearts.
SOME CONVERSATION HELPS FOR THIS WEEK:

PRE SCHOOL

○ WHO IS IN CONTROL OF EVERYTHING?
  GOD IS IN CONTROL OF EVERYTHING.

MALACHI SAID A MESSENGER WOULD GET PEOPLE READY FOR THE MESSIAH.

KIDS

- What was the message God gave Malachi to share?
  For God’s people to repent (Mal. 3:1)

- What do we learn about God or Jesus from this week?

- Do we see any promises from the Bible story?

STUDENTS:

• What does it look like for someone to despise the name of God in the world today?
• How has our family intentionally or unintentionally despised and dishonored God?
• When has our family experienced the relentless love of God pursuing our hearts?
• While we no longer have to sacrifice animals as a form of worship, how does it look for our family to worship God with all of our hearts, souls, and minds?

FAMILY CHALLENGE:

Open a conversation with your family by asking the question: “If you were given a million dollars, what would you do with it?”

“The way we spend our money reveals a lot about our hearts (Matt. 6:21). Like the Israelites, we often try to take control of our own finances rather than trusting God in His provision and plans. Discuss as a family how each of you can realign your finances and giving to put God in His rightful place as top priority in your lives.”