

# Malachi Men Facilitators Overview

This overview is intended to suggest how to use the Malachi Men lesson materials to full advantage. Materials are provided for both the facilitators and the participants. The following overview discusses each of these materials, as well as foundational objectives and assumptions.

## **Foundation:**

### Purpose:

The primary purpose of this program is to provide an overview of what the Bible says about creation, God, man, sin, salvation, church, marriage, and parenting.

### Assumptions:

The Malachi Men program is based on the following assumptions:

- God exists and He is sovereign. He is alive and active on earth.
- God's word is truth. God revealed His word in the Bible for our benefit and guidance.
- The Bible is all we need to understand our world, and live to please God. Obedience to God's Word allows us to be a blessing to our families, neighbors, and country.

### Theme:

The recurring theme in all lessons is that there are only two paths in this life. Every day we decide to either obey God or disobey. When we disobey we are honoring ourselves over God. There are consequences to each path. Each week we will examine one or more choices and the consequences of obeying God or defying Him.

### Approach:

- Our approach is to base all lessons and discussion on Scripture. In this manner we will connect Scripture with life's major questions. We will intentionally avoid discussing information not contained in Scripture. In other words, man's ideas from science, psychology, sociology, and anthropology will not be introduced.
- Each week we will identify several major biblical points, clarify resulting choices, and show the consequences of each choice.
- Each lesson will also highlight an attribute of God (mercy, justice, sovereignty, etc.) and a characteristic of man (designed to worship, sinner, accountable, etc.).

### Objectives:

Our specific objectives are as follows:

- Show the relevance of Scripture to real life. Scripture applies to all of life.
- Outline basic Bible doctrine (teaching) in a logical manner (i.e. creation, sin, salvation, sanctification, etc).
- Demonstrate a comprehensive biblical world-view.
- Provide an opportunity for the participants to follow Christ.
- Disciple any believers in the group.

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## **Facilitators Material:** (6-10 pages for each lesson)

Each two-hour lesson will be divided into an initial large-group session and a subsequent small-group time.

## **Large-Group:**

All of the facilitators and participants will be together for the large-group time. This is where the introductory teaching time will occur. One facilitator will pray and then present the large group lesson. This person may change from week to week and will be determined on a voluntary basis. No facilitator will be forced to give the large group presentation.

### *Introductory Information*

The large group will start with a prayer and introductory information: announcements, summary of last week's main points, objectives of the current week, etc. This will be brief and is intended to remind everyone of where we are and the direction we are headed.

### *Biblical Facts*

Following the introductory information several facts regarding Scripture will be shared. For example, in lesson one we will point out that there are over 24,000 ancient New Testament texts in existence, compared to only a handful for other ancient writings (e.g. Aristotle, Plato, and Caesar). The objective of this information is to show that the Bible is reliable, true, and relevant to daily life. We will systematically build the case for biblical reliability over the 12-week program.

### *Weekly Lesson*

The major biblical points for each week will be covered in this section. This is a time primarily for teaching, with little opportunity for group discussion. The questions indicated in the outline are primarily a lead-in to the next point. The questions will be answered with Scripture. The presenting facilitator will pose the question and then read one or more Scripture verses that answer the question. Immediately after the Scripture reading the main point(s) will be summarized. This method will demonstrate that Scripture has the answers to life's major questions and is the only reliable truth. Where appropriate, we will highlight choices we all face, and explore the consequences of each choice.

Note: Following the large-group lesson we will break into four smaller groups of 7-10 men each, with 2-3 facilitators in each group.

## **Small-Group:**

### *Prayer*

Begin each small-group session with prayer by one of the facilitators.

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## *Discuss Homework*

During this time the facilitators will ask the participants to share insights gained, or decisions made, over the past week. Some general questions are suggested to initiate discussion. This is a good time to encourage the men and provide them with hope.

## *Recite Prior Memory Verses*

The entire group should recite the verse(s) in unison several times. Hearing others recite the verse at the same time will help with memorization. Having the men pair up and recite to one another builds trust and fellowship.

## *Lesson Discussion*

This is the time to explore the lesson in greater detail and discuss the personal choices each of us must make. As with the main lesson, this discussion is guided by Scripture. The facilitator can read one or more related verses and then ask several questions to emphasize the main point, and the resulting choices. Suggested conclusions, questions, and choices are indicated in the facilitator's material following the Scripture verses. For example, knowing that we were created to worship only God we are faced with a critical choice. Will we seek and worship something other than God (fame, fortune, power, pleasure, etc.) or will we obediently worship God? What are the consequences (both in this life and for eternity) of our choice?

## *Homework Assignment*

The summary and homework sheet should be handed out at the end of the small-group time. If this sheet is handed out earlier some men may be reading the sheet and not paying attention to the discussion or lesson. The back side of this sheet should be read to the men and any questions clarified before the lesson is ended. The new memory verse should also be read in unison.

## *Ending Prayer*

Each small-group should end with a prayer. The men may wish to stand for the ending prayer. Initially, one of the facilitators should model this prayer, but with time some of the men may wish to pray. As you get to know the group they will become more comfortable with prayer, however, don't pressure anyone to pray, and be careful to avoid having someone monopolize the prayer. Keep the prayer short and clear. Encourage each man to record prayer requests and indicate when prayers are answered.

## Notes:

- About 15 minutes prior to the end of the small-group session someone will announce the time. If you haven't finished the lesson this would be a good time to come to a conclusion and move on to the homework assignment and prayer.
- Each bible verse in the facilitator's notes is followed by a number in parenthesis. This is the page number for the verse in the NKJV Gideon's Bibles.

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- Each lesson contains more verses than will likely be needed. If the lesson is finished before the two hours are up then unused verses can be read and discussed. As an alternative, facilitators could return to a previously fruitful question for further discussion.
- Guard against being so determined to cover each topic that you cut short discussion where God is clearly working on a participants heart.

### **Summary/Homework Handout:** (one double-sided sheet)

As stated previously, the participants will be given a double sided handout near the end of each small-group session. The front side summarizes the main points of the lesson and lists all of the Bible verses that were cited. The back side shows their homework for the next week.

Homework includes a verse to memorize, Scripture to read, and questions to consider. The homework is included to enable each inmate to continue interacting with Scripture during the week and consider how to apply Scripture to life's daily decisions. Homework will not be graded and there isn't enough time to go over each inmate's homework in detail. At the beginning of each lesson, however, the small group facilitator will invite participants to share an insight they gained, or a decision they made, as a result of the prior week's lesson or homework. Some general questions are included in the facilitator's notes to help promote this discussion.

Facilitator's should be familiar with the participants homework assignment. It is advisable for facilitators to memorize the verse, finish the reading, and consider the homework questions prior to the meeting.