

## **ONE LARGE GROUP**

### **OPENING PRAYER**

### **INTRODUCE FACILITATORS**

- First name only
- Each man is here to help you know God and how to live a God-honoring life

### **INTRODUCE PROGRAM** (briefly highlight the following points)

Time: Meet two hours weekly for 12 weeks (Saturday morning)

Purpose: Provide an overview of what the Bible says about: creation, God, man, marriage, and parenting

Basic assumptions are as follows:

- God exists & He is sovereign (He is alive & active)
- God’s word is truth (God revealed the Bible for our benefit & guidance)
- The Bible is all we need to understand our world, and live to please God. This allows us to help our families, neighbors, and country.

Theme: “Two Paths”

- Every day we decide to either obey God or disobey (honor God or self?)
- There are consequences to each path
- We will examine those choices each week

Josh 24:15 (262) ...choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve,... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Topics:

- Different each week
- Centered on the Bible, God, and man

Format:

- One large group (introduce topic, lecture 20-30 minutes)
- Small groups
  - Discuss the topic in more detail
  - Consider choices & consequences
  - Review homework & prayer time

Discussion rules (for small groups)

- Only one person talks at a time
- No disrespectful comments - Only positive, respectful, language
- Talk about yourself, not others
- Allow others to talk (don’t monopolize the discussion)
- No horseplay

# Malachi Men Lesson 1 “Creation” Facilitator’s Notes

## OBJECTIVES OF LESSON 1:

- Introduce the Bible as reliable, and our only truth (new info each week)
- Introduce God as Creator and Ruler
  - Next week we will introduce God as Judge
  - In following weeks we will introduce other aspects of God (i.e. just, merciful, gracious, etc.)
- Introduce man as God’s creation, made in His image, and religious
  - Next week we will introduce man’s problem (sin/disobedience)
  - In following weeks we will discuss salvation, sanctification, etc.)

## BIBLE:

- World’s best selling book (written 1500 BC to 100 AD)
- Best preserved ancient book (compare to Greeks & Romans)
  - Aristotle 5 copies
  - Plato 7 copies
  - Caesar 10 copies
  - NT 24,000+ (5000 in Greek)
- 99.99% accuracy in text (texts in great agreement)
- Given, inspired, and preserved by God (all true)
- Recorded by man (God works through men)

## GOD:

- Creator
  - Gen 1:1 (1) In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
    - Bible assumes the existence of God
    - Genesis sets the stage for all that follows (most important book)
    - Beginning of: creation, time, universe, sin, marriage, Jews, etc.
    - Bible is user’s manual, or repair manual, for people
    - Given to man (not to animals, plants, or rocks)
- Absolute Ruler (in total control)
  - Ps 103:19 (621) The Lord has established His throne in the heaven, and His kingdom rules over all.
    - God sets the rules
    - Need to know rules to succeed (e.g. games, work, invest, etc.)
- Sovereign
  - God’s invisible eternal power is always at work on His plan

## MAN:

- Created by God
  - Gen 2:7 (2) And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

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- Created to be Religious
  - Mt 22:35-38 (957) One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and the great commandment."
  - How would you describe someone who works religiously?
    - Dedicated, talks about work, gives time, sacrifices, excited, ritual, priority to work, money, identity in work, studies work, etc.
    - What are things people do religiously? (work, sports, pleasure, etc.)
  - How would you define worship?
    - Webster: showing devotion, reverence, love, veneration, admiration to someone or something (to idolize).
    - Acting religiously (as above work description)
    - Therefore, everyone is religious (we worship something)
    - Men are designed to worship God (they are religious)

## Transition:

- Explore topics in greater depth (review more verses)
- Consider implications (what do they mean?)
- Ask & answer questions
- Consider choices and consequences

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## **SMALL GROUPS** (each group reviews the following material)

### Opening Prayer

**Bible Verses:** (read or ask a volunteer to read some verses, **bold** vs. if limited time)

- **2 Tim 3:16** (1168) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for *doctrine*, for *reproof*, for *correction*, for *instruction in righteousness*. (teach, warn, point back to right way, help develop good habits)
- **Ps 19:7-9** (579) The law of the Lord is *perfect*, *converting* the soul; the testimony of the Lord is *sure*, *making wise* the simple. The statutes of the Lord are *right*, *rejoicing the heart*; the commandment of the Lord is *pure*, *enlightening the eyes*. The fear of the Lord is *clean*, *enduring forever*; the judgments of the Lord are *true* and *righteous* altogether.
- **Ps 119:11** (630) Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.
- **Ps 119:105** (632) Your word is a *lamp* to my feet and a *light* to my path.

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**Conclusions:** (ask – what do these verses teach?)

- The Bible is extremely useful & applies to all of life
- The Bible promises blessing to the faithful (obedient)

**Bible Questions:** (ask the group these questions)

- Have any of you worked on a car?
- How helpful was it to have a user's manual or repair manual?
- If the Bible is the user's/repair manual for people how should we treat it?
- If the Bible is the only truth we have what should be our attitude toward it?
- What happens when you ignore the truth? (i.e. a "bridge out" sign)

**GOD:**

**Creator Verses:** (read or ask a volunteer to read some verses, **bold** if limited time)

**Ex 20:8-11** (81) Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work, you nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

**Ps 19:1** (579) The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.

**Ps 90:2** (615) Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

**Ps 115:15-16** (628) May you be blessed by the Lord, who made heaven and earth. The heaven, even the heavens are the Lord's, but the earth He has given to the children of men.

**Prov 3:19** (646) The Lord by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding He established the heavens.

**Jer 10:12** (749) He has made the earth by His power, He has established the world by His wisdom, and has stretched out the heavens at His discretion.

**Heb 11:3** (1179) By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

**Conclusions:** (ask – what do these verses teach?)

- God is the creator of all that exists
- The character of God is seen in His creation
- The character and purpose of God is seen in His word
- Note: Our 7-day week is from creation (it was God's idea)

# Malachi Men Lesson 1 “Creation” Facilitator’s Notes

**Creator Questions:** (ask the group these questions)

- Have you ever created or built something?
- If so, who is most familiar with what was built?
- How did you feel about your creation?
- Did you have any expectations about your creation?
- How would you feel if someone abused your creation?
- How do you think God feels about His creation?
- Do you have any questions about God?

**Ruler Verses:** (read or ask a volunteer to read some verses, **bold** if limited time)

**1 Ch 29:11** (465) Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head over all.

**Ps 103:19** (621) The Lord has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all.

**Ro 11:36** (1110) For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

**Col 1:16** (1154) For by Him all things were created that are in the heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

**Rev 4:11** (1203) You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they exist and were created.

**Conclusions:** (ask – what do these verses teach?)

- God is ruler over all of creation
- The creator sets the rules
- The creator should be acknowledged and honored
- God alone can change you

**Ruler Questions:**

- If you own something who tells you how to use it?
- How do you feel if someone uses something you made for a different purpose than you intended?
- How do you think God feels about His creation disobeying Him?

**MAN:** (read or ask a volunteer to read some verses, **bold** if limited time)

**Gen 1:26-27** (1) Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

# Malachi Men Lesson 1 “Creation” Facilitator’s Notes

**Dt 6:5** (201) You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength.

**Ecc 12:13-14** (677) Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.

**Isa 64:8** (735) But now, O Lord, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You our potter; and all we are the work of Your hand.

**Ro 1:18-25** (1100) For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse. Because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man - and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves. Who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

**Eph 1:4** (1145) Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.

**Conclusions:** (ask – what do these verses teach?)

- Man has been created in the image of God (like Him in some respects)
- Man was created to love, serve, and worship God
- Man will be judged by God

**Questions:** (ask the group these questions)

- Since God created you what should be your attitude toward Him?
- How should you respond to what God tells you (about Him and you)?
- How do you see your relationship toward God? What should it be?
- What rights do you have and how did you get them?

**Summary:**

- God is sovereign
- God is the creator and ruler of the universe
- God alone is trustworthy and truthful
- Man is designed to worship God

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**HOMEWORK:** (handout & explain the homework assignment)

- Read:
  - Psalm 1
    - What are the two choices described in this psalm?
    - What are the consequences of each choice?
  - Proverbs 1
    - What is wisdom?
    - What are some benefits of seeking wisdom?
    - How is wisdom gained?
    - What is the consequence of ignoring wisdom?
- Answer the following questions:
  - What is your main goal in life?
  - What makes you the happiest?
  - What is the most important thing to you?
  - If you could have one wish, what would it be?
  - Who is the most important person in your life?
  - How do you seek to please that person?
  - Who do you most want to impress?
  - Whose opinion is most important to you?
  - What do you think about regularly?
  - What is your favorite hobby or activity?
  - Practically speaking, what or who do you think you worship?

## **Memory Verse:**

- Repeat several times as a group

Gen 1:1 (1) In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

**Memory Hint:** Write each verse on a small card (3x5) with the reference (Gen 1:1) on one side and the verse on the opposite side. Use these cards to practice the verse.

## **Prayer Time:**

- Prayer requests
- Prayer