



# RETURN TO ME —

**Malachi: Return to Me. God's Purifying – May 22-23, 2021**  
**STUDY NOTES || LIVE PREACHING**

Are we pursuing purity?

Are you pursuing purity?

*God Will Purify His People*

“Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,” Says the Lord of hosts. **Malachi 3:1 NKJV**

“But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire And like launderers’ soap. **Malachi 3:2 NKJV**

He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the Lord An offering in righteousness. **Malachi 3:3 NKJV**

“Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem Will be pleasant to the Lord, As in the days of old, As in former years. **Malachi 3:4 NKJV**

### **God Will Judge His People**

And I will come near you for judgment; I will be a swift witness Against sorcerers, Against adulterers, Against perjurers, Against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans, And against those who turn away an alien—Because they do not fear Me,” Says the Lord of hosts. **Malachi 3:5 NKJV**

### **God ask His people to Return to Him**

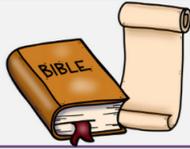
“For I *am* the Lord, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob. **Malachi 3:6 NKJV**

Yet from the days of your fathers You have gone away from My ordinances And have not kept *them*. Return to Me, and I will return to you,” Says the Lord of hosts. “But you said, ‘In what way shall we return?’ **Malachi 3:7 NKJV**

## NURSERY

## THE BIBLE IS GOD'S BOOK

KING JOSIAH FINDS THE LAW IN THE TEMPLE



Scribbles, dribbles, and mud pies. Toddlers are masters at creative messes. But toddlers are also eager to help clean if someone special asks them to. Have fun with your little helper as he/she helps you clean just like King Josiah cleaned the Temple in our new Bible story! Take some time to gently polish and pat the Bible and thank God for giving us this special book!

**Memory Verse:** The Bible is God's Book. 2 Timothy 3:16 (adapted for toddlers)

**Heart of the Lesson:** God Gave Us the Bible Because He Loves Us

**Parent Engagement:** To stick with our cleaning theme, help your toddler crumple up some scrap paper and practice tossing it into a wastebasket. Each time someone makes a basket, yell out today's heart of the lesson, "God Gave Us the Bible Because He Loves Us!"

## GKJR

## THE EARLY CHURCH

PETER AND PAUL



This month in GKJr we get to follow the exciting adventures of Peter and Paul as Jesus used them to help the early church get started. We will learn how Jesus wants us to be brave and tell others about Him and He will help us.

**Memory Verse:** "They replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household.' Acts 16:31

**Heart of the Lesson:** Praise God When Life is Good or Bad - Philippi and Lydia - Acts 16

**Parent Engagement:** Draw a picture to help you remember to praise God regardless of the circumstances like Paul did. Put it in a prominent place in your house and help each other to praise God throughout the week in the good and the bad.

## ELEMENTARY

## Jesus vs. The World



The world tells us a lot of things and if we aren't careful, it is easy to start listening to the world and acting like the world. The Bible tells us that God's kingdom is the opposite of the world and therefore the way we live should be different from the ways of this world. In this series, we are going to break down what Jesus tells us vs. what the World tells us. The victory is already won but you have to decide who you are going to let win in your life!

**Memory Verse:** Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect Romans 12:2

**Heart of the Lesson:** In God's Kingdom, Obeying Not Just Hearing - Matthew 7:24-27

**Parent Engagement:** Get a deck of cards. Try building a simple house on a table and on a blanket or bed (something soft or bumpy). Which one is more stable? See if your kids can tell you how that relates to the difference between hearing God's Word and actually doing it.

G56

# YOU ASKED FOR IT



During the month of May we will be answering tough questions that the 5th and 6th graders have asked. The students will engage in small groups to discover what the Bible says about their question, and then discuss with the whole group what they found out!

**Memory Verse:** Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Matthew 7:7-8

**Heart of the Lesson:** How do I know if heaven is real and where is it? Is it possible to leave hell? John 14:2-3, Job 15:15, 2 Peter 3:7, 10, 13, Isaiah 51:6, Jude 1:6, Matthew 25:41, Revelation 20:14, Revelation 21:1

**Parent Engagement:** Have your student role-play how they would answer today's question if a friend asked them.