

# **Return to Me**



## **7 Bible Studies on Malachi for Chinese Returnees**

**Prepared for the Return**

# Malachi 1:1-5

## **Before the study...**

Read Genesis 25:19-34 and Obadiah v10-11. What was the history of the relationship between Edom and Israel?

## ***Return to Me: "It all seems so far away"***

More questions to think through...

- What practical steps will you take to remind yourself of God's love when you go home?
- How can you continue to remember God's love in some of these situations:
  - Feeling helpless in the battle against sin?
  - Struggling to find a job?
  - Missing Christian friends from overseas?

# Malachi 1:6-14

## Before the study...

1. What was the role of priests and sacrifices in the Old Testament? (see Leviticus 9:2,7)
2. How does God feel about the priests in this passage? Why?

## ***Return to Me: Relationship with God***

More questions to think through...

- Why is it important to spend regular time with God?
- Why might it be difficult to set aside time to spend with God after going home?
- How can you get into good habits now?

# Malachi 2:1-9

## Before the study...

1. How does God say a priest should act?
2. What is God's covenant with Levi?

## *Return to Me: Church*

More questions to think through...

- Why is it important for Christians to belong to a church?
- What do you think church will be like when you return home? What are you looking forward to? What are you nervous about?
- In what ways might you be able to serve your church in China after you return?

# Malachi 2:10-16

## Before the study...

1. What are the people doing wrong in this passage?
2. Why is it so serious?

## *Return to Me: Marriage*

More questions to think through...

- What is God's will for us in relationships? Why is this good for us?
- What might make it difficult for you to obey God in the area of marriage?
- How might we comfort ourselves and each other when we struggle to trust God in this area?

# Malachi 2:17-3:5

## Before the study...

1. Why are the people complaining in this passage?
2. Why will God send a messenger?

## *Return to Me: Sharing the Gospel*

- **Sharing our testimony in a Christ-centered way**

What questions might family and friends ask about life in the UK? How will you explain to them what it means that you became a Christian, and why you became a Christian? How can you do this in a way that helps them start to understand the gospel?

- **Memorising a simple gospel outline**

For example, Two Ways to Live (<http://www.matthiasmedia.com.au/2wtl/> - also available in Chinese)

# Malachi 3:6-12

## Before the study...

1. What do we learn about God's character?
2. What does the Israelites' behaviour reveal about their attitude to God?

## ***Return to Me: Parents and family***

More questions to think through...

- When might it be a challenge to obey God in your relationships with your parents after returning home?
- How would trusting God's faithfulness affect your behaviour in these areas?
- How can you wholeheartedly worship God through your relationship with your family?

# Malachi 3:13-4:6

## Before the study...

1. What do we learn about the future 'day'?
2. How should God's people live in view of that day?

## *Return to Me: Work*

More questions to think through...

- Why might you be tempted to put your work above your relationship with God?
- How does the future perspective of Jesus' return encourages you to make decisions that seem 'pointless' now?



# Finally...

## ***Return to Me: Keeping Going***

- How has studying Malachi increased your confidence in God's faithfulness to you?
- How has it increased your fear of the Lord?
- What practical steps can you take so that you continue to grow in these two areas after returning home?

# Bible Timeline 圣经总览

