

## WILDERNESS CAMP ONLINE STUDY SESSION 1

### **I've Got My Notes, Now What?**

1. Open with prayer and ask for God's guidance. With God we can do great things!
2. Create a study plan: if we fail to plan, we plan to fail
  - a. Number of verses or pages per week
  - b. Schedule study time in – mornings, one evening, etc. – including some thinking time – be regular
  - c. Stick to it! Use SMART targets.
    - i. **Specific** – what, where, why
    - ii. **Measurable** – to track progress, so you know when you've succeeded
    - iii. **Achievable** – ensure the goal is realistic
    - iv. **Relevant** (i.e. aligns with your objectives)
    - v. **Time-bound** – timeframes, deadlines

3. Read the section – the whole book of Malachi a number of times, and then the portion being studied.
  - a. Has 55 verses!!!
  - b. Suggested reading time is 11 minutes

Reading the text brings familiarity and helps develop appreciation of links to other verses or sections of scripture. You will find new ideas with every read! It is best to use the Bible to expound the Bible, however don't be scared to use resources to help gain a better understanding!

4. When reading the section being studied, note down:
  - a. **Summary / basic meaning of each verse in everyday English.**  
Below is an example of how I have put Malachi 1:1-5 into simple everyday English:
    - v1: God's heavy words to Israel via Malachi.
    - v2: God says, I love you. Israel says, When? God says, when I loved you over Esau.
    - v3: God hated Esau and made his land waste.
    - v4: Esau says, we will build up even though we are low. God says, no you won't, I will strike you down.
    - v5: Israel will see this and praise God.
  - b. **Key words and phrases / repetitions, eg:**
    - i. Love
    - ii. Israel / Jacob and EsauFollow a word in the original language (Hebrew or Greek) using e-Sword etc.
  - c. **Action words / imperative verbs** e.g. 3:7 return; 4:4 remember
  - d. **Things that we don't understand** – including symbols or metaphors

- e. **Quotations, allusions or 'echos'** – from text, margin or memory
  - f. **Thoughts from another translation** – e.g. ESV, NIV, NLT (a favourite)
  - g. **Breakdown the book or chapter** – and check against reference books later. This becomes the Key to the study – need to unlock it. The paragraph dividers in KJV/sub-headings in ESV etc can be useful.
5. Ask questions:
- a. What is the historical background / geography? There is heaps on this!
  - b. What is of interest about the writer? Not much on this!
  - c. What is the overall message? See chiasm in Notes (pg 17)
  - d. Why is the message conveyed in this way? Whole lot of questions, whole lot of answers – the nation is in denial!!
6. Read and note books on the subject:
- a. Wilderness Camp Study Notes
  - b. Other books / notes on Malachi (with care), your library, parent's library, ask a well-read person in your ecclesia
    - i. 2 books available from CSSS at half price for attendees!! See the [Study Resources](#) for more info.
  - c. Study Bibles / Bible Dictionaries / Lexicons (e.g. Vine, Gesenius, Thayer) also helps to work out the 'unknowns'
7. Note down discipleship lessons, is there:
- a. A new insight to reflect upon?
  - b. An attitude I need to change?
  - c. A command I need to obey?
  - d. A prayer I need to pray?
  - e. An error I need to avoid?
  - f. An example to follow?
  - g. Something to be thankful for?
8. Keep meaningful notes of your findings.
- a. Note book? iPad? Use colours, make it fun!
9. Bible mark key outcomes – and make it personal. Use colours (pens and pencils), connect things with lines, have breakout boxes, use lined pages in back of Bible. More about that next time!
10. Close with grateful prayer – we have worked with God.

Take the whole process seriously – God is talking to us – we need to listen to Him – and grow from it personally and in our relationship with Him. Investments bring rewards. Psa. 119:9. "How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word."

## **NEXT SESSION**

Thursday 12 February, 7.30pm ACDT

Subject: [How to make my study come alive](#)

[Zoom link](#) • Meeting ID: 826 180 4620 • Passcode: Malachi