



## PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE—YOUTH

### Lesson 6: God's Desire for Israel to Overcome Complacency—Malachi 1-4

#### ENCOUNTER—Community Discussion

After reading the passage, take time to journal through the questions below. Don't feel like you have to answer all these questions. Wrestle with the text, and be prepared to share with your community.

*How is this God's story?*  
*How is this others' story?*

*How is this my story?*  
*How is this the world's story?*

#### PRAYER

*It is good to praise the Lord  
and make music to your name, O Most High,  
proclaiming your love in the morning  
and your faithfulness at night,  
to the music of the ten-stringed lyre  
and the melody of the harp.*

*For you make me glad by your deeds, LORD;  
I sing for joy at what your hands have done.  
How great are your works, LORD,  
how profound your thoughts!  
Senseless people do not know,  
fools do not understand,  
that though the wicked spring up like grass  
and all evildoers flourish,  
they will be destroyed forever.*

*But you, LORD, are forever exalted.*

*For surely your enemies, LORD,  
surely your enemies will perish;  
all evildoers will be scattered.  
You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox;  
fine oils have been poured on me.  
My eyes have seen the defeat of my adversaries;  
my ears have heard the rout of my wicked foes.*

*The righteous will flourish like a palm tree,  
they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon;  
planted in the house of the LORD,  
they will flourish in the courts of our God.  
They will still bear fruit in old age,  
they will stay fresh and green,  
proclaiming, "The LORD is upright;  
he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him."  
(Psalm 92)*

#### WEEKLY PRACTICE

We are all on a journey with God, and often we hit dry patches that make us forget the times He refreshed us and cared for in abundance. Sometimes keeping a journal of our defining moments can help us remember the whole scope and sequence of things between us and the Lord. Here are some ideas beyond a daily log:

- **See the big picture:** Get a large yearly calendar you can put up on your wall. Write bullet statements on any day that you feel led by God in some way or that you take an intentional step toward him.
- **Blog:** Create an online journal that you can either keep private or allow others to read. Don't just put on a happy face—walk through the ups and downs of life equally.
- **Scrapbook:** Get artistic and paste photos alongside of creative pictures or images that summarize events from your spiritual journey.
- **Audio/Video:** Record your prayer life on camera or over the microphone. Save it to a storage device or disk.
- **Recycle what you're already doing:** Use the various things you're a part of, such as social media or videos you've shot, to recall the experiences you've had with God and others who love Him.

## BECOMING MY STORY

*Deuteronomy 28*

*Revelation 22*

Spend time this week reading and journaling through the above Scriptures. In the context of Malachi 1-4, consider the following questions:

*How do you tend to talk yourself out of stretching toward God?*

*How do you tend to overlook how God is stretching toward you?*

Consider other passages you might know related to Malachi 1-4 and read them this week, journaling as you go