

GROWTH GROUP QUESTIONS WEEK OF OCT 24 2021

MALACHI 3:1-5

J. Richards

The Unsettling Presence of the Lord

Take a little time to review this week's sermon. Using your sermon notes and your Bible, answer the following questions before the group meeting. Write out your answers so you'll feel more comfortable sharing them with the group. Have a great time!

I. Getting to Know You

How did you experience God working in your life this week? How can we pray for you?

II. Digging Deeper

1. Does it sound strange to you to describe God's presence as unsettling? Why or why not?

2. The idea of a "thief in the night" is used several times in Scripture to describe Christ's coming (Matthew 24:42; 1 Thessalonians 5:2, 2 Peter 3:10). What ideas does this image present? Why are many Christians so unprepared for the return of the Lord?

3. How would the presence of the Lord be different from what the people might have been expecting in Malachi's time? (Compare 2:17 with 3:3 & 5)

4. Why does God cleanse us according to Malachi 3:4? Examine the link between spiritual cleanliness and closeness to God.

5. Discuss the statement: God is more interested in our holiness than our comfort.

III. Making it Personal

6. Is the idea of the Lord's return a little unnerving for you? How can you become more prepared for His return?

7. What stood out to you most from this week's study?

IV. Prayer