



# Connection Group Participant Guide

October 10, 2021

Malachi 1:6-14

**Teaching Point 1.** God is worthy of honor – A father and a master deserve honor and respect. In this passage these are used as anecdotes which show us that God deserves our honor. If we should honor a sinful person, how much more should we honor the Lord?

**Application:** Since fathers deserve honor, how can you give your father honor this week?

**Teaching Point 2.** God seeks honor for Himself – From the moment we believe in God, we are taught that we should be selfless. We are taught that we should not try to get credit or glory from others. We should count others as more important than ourselves.

Then why here do we see our ultimate role-model seeking honor for Himself? Is He breaking His own standard?

The answer is simple. God deserves the honor and the glory and we don't. When we seek glory for ourselves it is stealing it.

**Teaching Point 3.** The priests despised God's name – The priests should have been good models for the people. They were supposed to be the spiritual leaders of the nation. Their lives should have been characterized by holiness, justice, and a zeal for God. But we see that their passion and zeal has disappeared. Their service to God is just a job, a career. We see the evidence of this in the type of offerings they make to God. Instead of offering the best of what they have, they made a habit of giving the worst of what they had to God. It seems that they deluded themselves to think that because they couldn't see God, He also couldn't see them or care about what they were doing.

But God was not pleased with these offerings, nor should He be. He is the Creator; He chose to extend grace and mercy to His people. In their history, He miraculously intervened in their lives time and time again. Everything they had was from Him, their health, their nation, and their land. But they weren't grateful, and they didn't give Him the respect He was worthy of.

**Application:** What are some modern-day parallels of ways we may not honor God today? In what areas can we show honor and respect to God by giving Him the very best?