New Song Learning Communities, Oct. 1-4, 2026

WHY LEARNING COMMUNITIES? ***Circle Two Opportunity…***

To become better and better disciples of Christ TOGETHER so we can face ***anything*** through…

1. Deeper learning of Biblical truth and 2. Stronger "iron sharpening iron" relationships

Ephesians 4:12–16 (ESV)

HISTORY COVERED –Esther, 2nd and 3rd group of exiles return, God's final OT message through Malachi

BIBLE RECAP COVERED – Esther6-10, Ezra 7-10, Nehemiah, Malachi; Sept. 24-30, Days 267-273, circa 520-430 B.C.

Esther 6-7:6 *King Honors Mordecai, Esther Reveals Haman's Plot*
Esther 7:7 *Haman Is Hanged*
Esther 8 *Esther Saves the Jews*
Esther 9 *Jews Destroy Enemies, The Feast of Purim Inaugurated*
Esther 10 *The Greatness of Mordecai*
Ezra 7 *Ezra Sent to Teach the People*
Ezra 8 *Genealogy of Returnees, Ezra Sends for Levites, Fasting and Prayer for Protection, Priests to Guard Offerings*
Ezra 9 *Ezra Prays About Intermarriage*
Ezra 10 *People Confess Their Sin, Those Guilty of Intermarriage*
Neh 1
Neh 2
Neh 3
Neh 4
Neh 5
Neh 6
Neh 7
Neh 8
Neh 9
Neh 10
Neh 11
Neh 12
Neh 13
Psalm 126
Malachi 1 *Lord's Love for Israel, The Priests' Polluted Offerings*
Malachi 2-3:5 *The Lord Rebukes the Priests, Judah Profaned the Covenant, The Messenger of the Lord*
Malachi 3 *Robbing God, The Book of Remembrance*
Malachi 4 *The Great Day of the Lord*

- Do you have thoughts, insights or questions about this week's readings?
- REMINDER: It's all about CHANGED LIVES!!
  ALWAYS *look for the* ***WHY*** *behind the* ***WHAT*** *in growing to be like Jesus*
  ALWAYS *obey the* ***WHAT*** *first in* ***FOLLOWING*** *Jesus, and sometimes the* ***WHY*** *will be there*
- REVIEW: what are your highlights from our 9-month reading of the Old Testament
- MALACHI is God's final appeal of His message from the beginning to TRUST and OBEY

God's Appeal	Rebellious Response
I love you – respond to My love **Malachi 1:1–5 (ESV)**	Suspicious of God's Love, self-focused
Worship Me as I desire **Malachi 1:6–2:9 (ESV)**	Practiced sacrilegious rites
Live Righteously toward Me and people **Malachi 2:10–16 (ESV)**	Selfish Disregard
Hope in Me **Malachi 2:17–3:6 (ESV)**	Give up hope in God
Obey Me with Your Money **Malachi 3:7–12 (ESV)**	Steal from God
Fear Me in Reverential Awe and Obedience **Malachi 3:13–184:3 (ESV)**	Dismiss God as Useless

Final word: Prepare for God's Coming by Obeying His Word and Watching for His Coming

Malachi 4:4–6 (ESV) 4"Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. 5"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. 6And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

➔ 400 YEARS OF "SILENCE" – God's preparations in Jewish and secular history
Study resource compiled by Matthew Scott

Chronological Guide: p p 124,126-128,130,135-138

Takeaways: