



YOU ARE LOVED BY GOD DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MALACHI 1:1-5


1 What's the first thing that comes to your mind when you think about how God feels about you?


 *The Bible should have sole authority in forming our view of God (1 Corinthians 2:11, Isaiah 55:8-9), but often many judge God or define him through other means. What are some of the unhelpful ways that a view of God can be shaped? What life situations might lead someone to think wrongly about God?*

 *In what areas have you had expectations that resulted in disappointments and discouragements? How did that impact your view of God?*

 *What evidence for God's love and grace can you point to in your life? How can the realization that God loves you affect a seemingly hopeless situation?*

2 **What does it mean to be chosen by God?** (Ephesians 1:4-5, John 15:16, 1 Peter 2:9-10, 2 Timothy 1:9, Romans 8:29-30) Why is this such an important aspect of affirming the love of God?

 *Malachi 1 reminds us of God's interaction with two brothers--Jacob and Esau. Which of them was deserving of God's love? What can we learn from that?*

 *Think about the following statement: "Everyone deserves hell, but some get grace instead." Do you agree or disagree with that statement? Explain.*

3 **The Israelites didn't have smooth journey through their history.** In fact, the book of Malachi is set just a century or so after the nation was taken into captivity by Babylon. God was at work through His loving discipline toward His people. Think about the relationship between love and discipline. How are they related?

♥ *Can you think of a time God lovingly disciplined you? How is Heb. 12:5-11 a comfort for believers?*

4 **Think of a time recently when you faced a situation where instead of trusting God's love, you instead decided to do things your own way.** Share these examples as a group then think about how they turned out together. What happened? How did the situations turn out and what did you learn?

📖 *Read Romans 2:2-4. In what ways did you experience "the kindness of God that was meant to lead you to repentance"?*

5 **The Lord is great beyond your life, your church, and your country.** What are some of the implications of that statement? How should that make us respond to him?

🗣️ *How can you help stir other people to experience God's love?*