Sermon Title: The Lord Whom You Seek
Sermon Scripture: Malachi 3:1-4

CANTON
FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

Sermon Discussion Guide (11/22)

Begin the discussion by checking in with each person present and share prayer requests/praises with the group. Then, have one person offer a prayer for the group making sure to include any prayer requests that were mentioned earlier.

Scripture
Read Malachi 3:1-4 out loud. Discuss any initial thoughts you have about these verses.

Observation

In Malachi 3:1, what promise does God make to His people, and how might that promise encourage them during a difficult season? How might you feel encouraged by God's words? What are some other passages from the Bible that have helped you through a difficult season?

Why does Malachi describe the Lord's coming as a refiner's fire and launderer's soap? What do these teach us about God's purpose? How have you seen the Lord's refining fire and the launderer's soap in your life?

According to the sermon, why is it significant that God's own people, including the priests, needed to be refined and purified? What areas of your life require God's refinement and purification?

How does God's work of exposing sin and restoring what is good lead to renewed faithfulness and worship? Where do you see God exposing sin in our world and how has that strengthened your faith?

Application

Have you ever experienced a season when it felt like God was distant or had forgotten you? How does remembering that God's faithfulness does not depend on your perfection change the way you view those seasons?

Are you seeking God primarily to change your circumstances, or are you also willing to let Him change your heart? What might that look like in your life right now? What is holding you back from letting God change your heart?

When God reveals an area of sin, weakness, or brokenness in your life, is your first response to hide it or invite Him to work on it? Why do you respond in the way that you do?

What is one area of your life where you sense that God may be calling you to deeper faithfulness? What is one practical step you can take to respond? What spiritual discipline (prayer, fasting, sabbath, etc.) could help you to either discern God's calling or lead you to a deeper faithfulness?

Prayer

Lord God, thank you for being our refining fire. You burn that which makes us impure so we may enjoy a deeper relationship with you. Thank you for being our launderer. Thank you for washing us clean and helping us to remove our sins from our life. Thank you for being a good, good, Father. A father, that no matter our sin or lack of faith, desires to still be one with us. A Father who desires us enough to send His one and only Son as our redeemer, so we may join you in Heaven and eternity. Amen.