

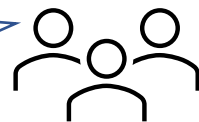
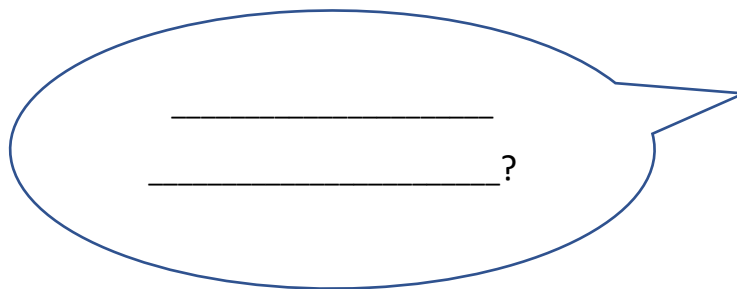
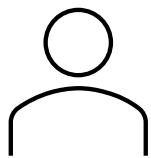
Listen carefully to the Bible reading  
from Malachi 2 verse 10 to 16

The people of Israel were getting things all wrong.  
They didn't know what it meant to be **God's people**.

Let's see how Israel were getting this wrong.  
Malachi brings this message to the people from God:  
"You weep and groan because the Lord does not accept your offerings"

Look at verse 14. What do the people say?

The LORD



Israel

This was **not** an honest question. They were upset with God.  
They mean something like this:

"God is supposed to accept our offering and send us  
lots of blessings. Why does he not? He should be pleased  
with us!"

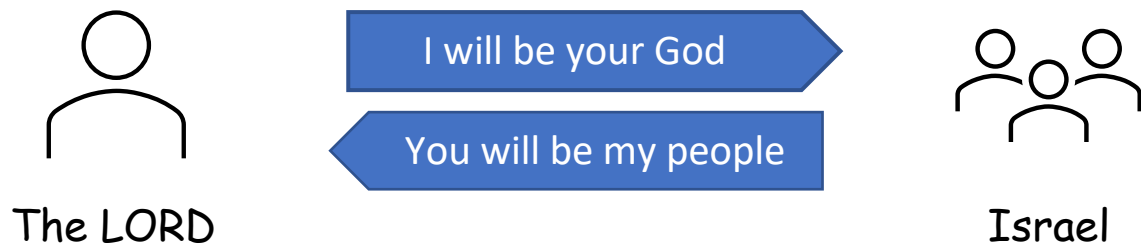
Wow! Can you believe it?

They still don't think they have done anything wrong!

They think God has got it wrong!

Let's see what it really means to be **God's people**.

God makes a **special promise** to his people. It is called a **Covenant** and it looks like this:



But the people were breaking God's covenant.  
Malachi tells them two things they were doing wrong.

1. Read verse 11 carefully. Who were the people marrying?

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The people they married worshipped \_\_\_\_\_  
(dlois)

And they were turning the people away from God.

What else were the people doing? Read verse 14.

2. They were not keeping their promises to their \_\_\_\_\_  
(wvsie)

When people get married, they make a promise to be faithful to one another.

But the people were breaking their promises.

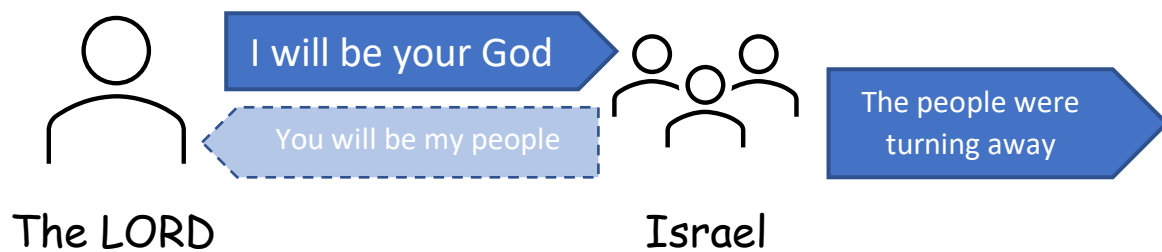
They were leaving their wives and marrying others instead.

God was not happy about this

because he is always \_\_\_\_\_ (taifhulf)

he always keeps his \_\_\_\_\_ (ioessrpm)

Can you see what the people were doing to God's covenant?



They thought: "As long as we make some sacrifices to God, we can do whatever we like"

What do you think the people deserve for the way they have treated God?

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But God still loves his people. This is why he sent Malachi to them - to call them back to him:

"Return to me, and I will return to you,  
says the LORD of hosts."

Malachi 3v7

Use the words in the box to complete the sentences.

wrong	God's	believe	king
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Today we can be one of \_\_\_\_\_ people if we \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus died for the \_\_\_\_\_ we have done and if we  
make him our \_\_\_\_\_.

But if we are one of God's people, what should our lives be like? Put a ✓ or a ✗ in the ☐ for each answer.

We just need to think about God on Sundays;  
on other days we can do what we like ☐

It's ok if we live however we like because we  
can just say sorry ☐

We should love God with all our heart, all our  
soul and all our mind ☐

God is King over all our lives so we put him  
first in everything ☐

Next week we will see the plan God had for his covenant.  
Have a peek at chapter 3 verse 1 and look for the clue in  
the picture below. What do you think God's plan was for his  
covenant?

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