

**Welcome**

*Start by spending some unstructured time together. Eventually, transition to a welcome question, either general or specific.*

- General Question: What was the highlight of your past week? What was the roughest part?
- Specific Question: Have you ever had a difficult experience that helped you grow as a person? What was it like?

**Lectio Divina****Listen**

- Begin with a few moments of quiet or a prayer.
- Facilitator: "During the first reading listen for specific words or phrases that grab your attention."
- Have one person read the passage aloud.

**Meditate**

- Facilitator: "During the second reading meditate on the text, asking God what it means."
- Have one person read the passage aloud.

**Share**

- Facilitator: "After the third reading, share out loud the word or phrase that came to you."
- Have one person read the passage aloud.
- Take this moment to share your word or phrase.
- If you have time to go through the discussion questions, do so now.

**Savor**

- Facilitator: "During the fourth reading savor Let go of words, and ask God to reveal how the text might affect your life this week."
- Have one person read the passage aloud.

**Malachi 3:1-4**

*"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty.*

*But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap.*

*He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, 4 and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years.*

**Discuss**

Take your time to discuss the following questions. Make space to let everyone speak.

- 1) What thoughts or emotions stir in you when you read this passage?
- 2) Is there anything in the text you find discouraging or encouraging?
- 3) What does this passage teach us about the nature of God?
- 4) How might this affect the way you interact with the people who make up Austin Mustard Seed? How might this affect how you interact with neighbors (literal neighbors, coworkers, friends, etc.)
- 5) What do you want to remember about this passage in the week to come?

**Pray Together**

*Spend time praying together for hopes, dreams, joys and needs. Make sure at least one person records the prayers and sends them to the rest of the group.*