

**John 10:10** *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

**Galatians 5:22-23** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

- **How have you experienced the benefits of following God?**

**Ezekiel 11:19-20** *“And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God.”*

**Hebrews 4:12-13** *For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.*

- **What’s your initial reaction to these verses? Why?**

**James 4:8** *Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*

**Romans 2:1-3** *Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God?*

- **Why is it so easy for us to make choices in life that are hypocritical?**

**Psalms 73:21-22** *When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart, I was brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you.*

**Hebrews 12:15** *See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled*

- **What about your current situation makes it easy for bitterness to raise in your heart?**

- **How can you fight against bitterness?**

**Proverbs 16:18** *Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.*

**Psalms 10:3-4** *For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul, and the one greedy for gain curses and renounces the LORD. In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him; all his thoughts are, “There is no God.”*

- **Describe the symptoms of a heart that is struggling with pride?**

- **What are some ways to grow in humility as a follower God?**

**Psalms 51:10** *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.*

- **Why is it that God must create a clean heart inside of us, instead of us choosing to clean ourselves?**

- **What emotions do you experience when you think about the opportunity to have a clean heart? Why?**

**Psalms 16:9** *Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.*

**Psalm 57:6-7a** *They set a net for my steps; my soul was bowed down. They dug a pit in my way, but they have fallen into it themselves. My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast!*

**Psalm 108:1** *My heart is steadfast, O God! I will sing and make melody with all my being!*

- **Why is steadfastness an important quality for men who are incarcerated?**
- **What obstacles get in the way of us developing the kind of characteristics God desires?**
- **How can these obstacles be overcome?**

We've spent 12 lessons exploring what it means to be a man of God, including the characteristics of a godly husband and a godly father. Let's remember that in order to become the kind of man we want to be, we must rely on God's power to create a new heart within us.

## **Malachi Dads The Heart of a Father**

### **Lesson 12 Questions**

#### ***"The Heart"***

#### Memory Verse

*Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.*  
(Proverbs 4:23)

- **Do you think it's easier to live as a Christian or a nonbeliever? Explain.**

**Proverbs 16:25** *There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.*

**Proverbs 13:15** *Good sense wins favor, but the way of the treacherous is their ruin.*

**Galatians 6:8** *For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.*

- **How have you experienced the difficult consequences of rebelling against God?**
- **Where do you see evidence in our culture that choosing to walk away from God causes many problems?**

**Matthew 11:28-30** *"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*

- **When have you felt like you were desperate for rest?**