

## **Study Guide-Love and Baggage Week #2**

### **Let's Get Started**

1. "Having a baby is making the decision to spend the rest of your life watching your heart walk around outside your chest."-how did that quote impact you?
2. Share something that was a real surprise to you when you became a parent?

### **Let's Dig In**

1. Read Malachi 4:4-6-When people talk about their concern over the "times" we are living in, what are the usual indicators of problems that they raise? Why do you think that is so?
2. Pastor Jack explained Malachi is an extended dispute between Israel and God that began with Israel questioning God's love for them. Have you ever done that? Why?
3. God responds by highlighting some ways that Israel had broken their Covenant with God-Pastor Jack shared three areas: worship, finances, and marriage. Did any of those areas stand out to you?
4. God makes the offer, "Return to me and I will return to you" (Malachi 3:7) What was the condition of returning?
5. The deterioration and the salvation of a people begins with the family-why?
6. The great promise God makes is that he will turn the heart of parents and children back towards one another-just share what your initial reaction is to that.
7. Pastor Jack talked about several things we could do with our hearts if we were the parents of a prodigal: Surround our heart, submit our heart, release our heart, and cleanse our heart. Discuss those, especially the ones that were the most meaningful for you.
8. When dealing with a prodigal, we need to cleanse our heart of self-pity, envy, and fear. Which of those do you think is the most difficult to deal with?
9. When he spoke of the heart of the Prodigal, Pastor Jack reminded us of the concept of "honor" from Exodus 20:12. How did that strike you?

### **Let's Go Deeper**

1. "Five Lies of Our Anti-Christian Age"-Rosaria Butterfield

