

Malachi 3.6-12

robbing God!

Thieves steal things which don't belong to them.



This picture appears somewhere on every page of this worksheet. See if you can spot it on every page!

It's not a nice feeling when you know that someone has stolen something from you.

People steal in all sorts of ways.

They can snatch things from your bag when you aren't looking: maybe a favourite toy: or some money.

If you're a grown-up, sometimes it's your bank card, or your bank details which get stolen.

There's even what's called **Identity theft** where it's like *you* get stolen – or at least all the details about you.

A famous thief

A book was written a long time ago about a boy who was trained to be a 'pick-pocket' – someone who quietly 'picked' the pockets of unsuspecting people on busy pavements or in crowded rooms.

You've probably heard of him – he was always asking for "More!"

Fill in the name of the book below

_____ **T** _____

Here are the letters you'll need

I LIVE WORST



A famous theft ..



In the 1966 the football World Cup Finals were held in England.

That was the year that England won the World Cup (Scotland beat them the next year, mind!)

Four months before the tournament was due to start, while the World Cup was on public display in London .. **it was stolen!**

The police managed to arrest a man called Edward Betchley (who ended up serving 2 years in prison for his crime).

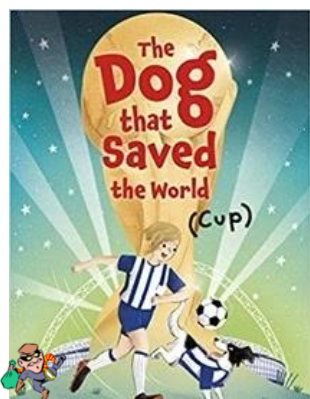
The World Cup itself was found, 7 days after it was stolen, by a dog belonging to David Corbett.

Here's a picture of the dog

which found the Cup and saved the day!

See if you can you guess what the dog was called ...

Here are the letters you'll need



KP
SLICE



Today's Bible passage

is about people stealing from God!

Have a read of the passage first



Read

Malachi 3. 6-8

God was reminding His people that He hadn't changed.

He loved them. Always.

And because He loved them, He was always willing to give generously to them.

But ...

His people's love for Him had changed.

Instead of giving to Him, they were taking from Him. God accused them of ...

.. stealing!



Put a circle round the bit in the passage where God says that.

⁶ 'I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. ⁷ Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,' says the Lord Almighty.

'But you ask, "How are we to return?"

⁸ 'Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me.

'But you ask, "How are we robbing you?"

'In **tithes and offerings**.



What are 'tithes' and 'offerings'?

A 'tithe' was 10% of what a person earned or what a person had harvested.

The people of God were told by God in those days to give that proportion of their income to God.

But they'd stopped doing that, and held some back – and in that way they were **robbing God**.



but God made a promise

to His people – an amazing promise!

Take a look and see how amazing a promise it was!

Read

Malachi 3.10-12

¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house.

Test me in this,' says the Lord Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

¹¹ I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,' says the Lord Almighty.

¹² 'Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,' says the Lord Almighty.

God loves to give!

.. and to give very generously.

A bit like what happens when you open the floodgates of a big reservoir or dam.

The water comes absolutely pouring out!
Millions of gallons in next to no time.

That's how God loves to give – pouring out His blessings upon His people.

*

He wants *us* to give like that too!

God wants His people to be like Him, to hold nothing back, and to give our all for Him.

Something to think about ..

How might you show the Lord that you want to give Him your all?



A Prayer

Think about what you've been learning today.

Now try praying this prayer (or making up your own prayer!)



It's great finding out about Your love for us, Lord Jesus!

Knowing that You love me so much makes me feel very, very safe!

Thank You that You've promised to love Your people *always* – no matter what. I'm glad that You stick with me even when I forget about You.

I'm sorry, Jesus, that I don't always remember how good You are to me: when I forget all that You have done for me and given to me.

Help me to keep my eyes on You all through every day, so that I can live for You in everything I'm doing.


I want all my friends to find out for themselves just how great You are and to trust You for themselves day by day.

Help me to give You my best and my all – although my 'all' doesn't seem that much!

Thank You, Jesus, for everything!
You're the best!

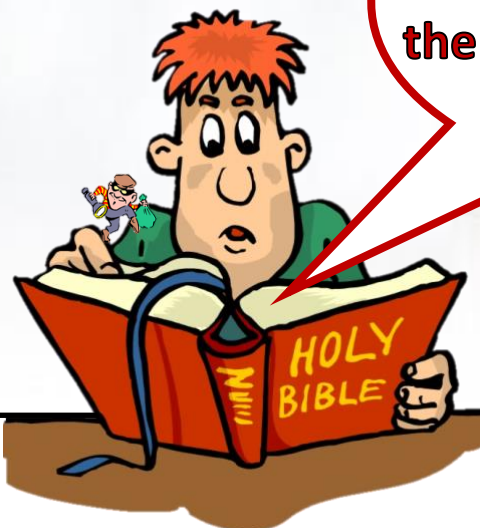


Today's verse for you to try and remember!



**"Test Me in this ..
and see if I will not open
the floodgates of heaven .."**

Malachi 3.10



A WORDSEARCH

Try this wordsearch which is taken from Luke 12.32-34

".. for where your treasure is there will your heart be also .."

V L S P U R S E S H Q L R A G
E K E P H A R K Z B E Q V G I
S C L D O L I T T L E A G F V
R O L P W O W J T U B C R T E
P G K L F L R I Z H W X H T M
H O E E G K F A T H E R S O M
T E S A O X C A H S A L D B U
H X P S R U N H Y E R G U M E
I H D E E M D O R N N M P K T
E A T D W S R U E I Y A O J E
F U M I V T S V K D K F A T H
O S P A S A A I P C Y R O Y H
Q T P E E E R Z O R E A Y C R
K E D R H T I L I N V I W J H
X D T X M S F V Y K S D A U L

PURSES

DESTROYS

FATHER

POSSESSIONS

HEAVEN

PLEASED

WEAR

KINGDOM

LUKE

FLOCK

EXHAUSTED

MOTH

HEART

AFRAID

SELL

POOR

TREASURE

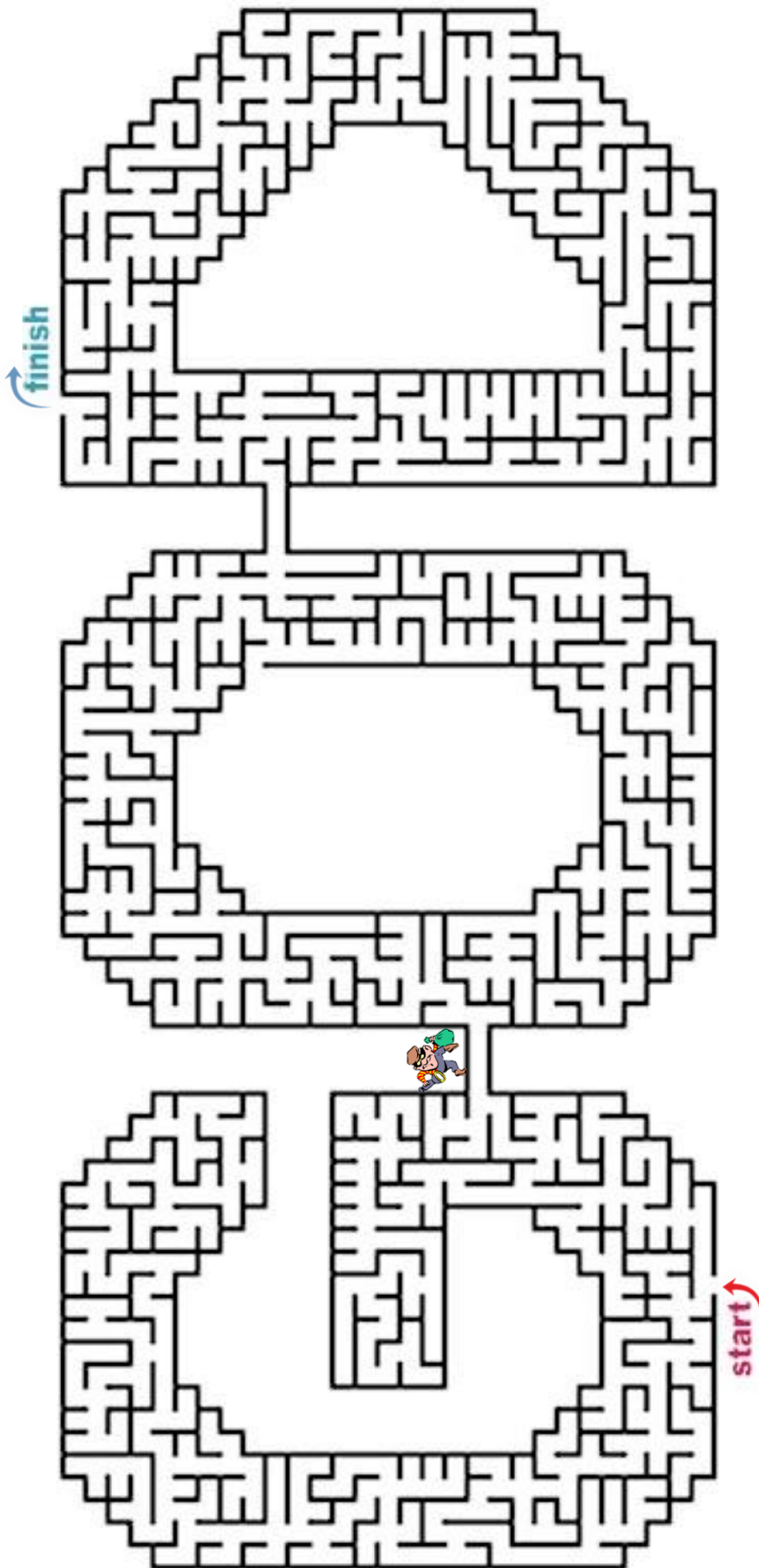
THIEF

LITTLE

GIVE

God is a MAZE ing!

See if you can get through this maze from **start** to **finish**



For you to COLOUR IN





“Yet you rob Me!”

Today's passage saw God telling His people that they had been robbing Him



“Yet

you

rob Me!”