



As the discussion leader, here are a few things to keep in mind for your Life Group: • **Pray** for your group discussion time! • **Review** your notes from Sunday's message and familiarize yourself with the discussion questions prior to your group meeting. • **Choose** a few questions from the guide which you feel will generate the most discussion in your group. For questions with multiple parts, answer the first part before reading the next part to the group. These questions are designed to build on the answer of the previous part before moving on.

Getting to Know Me

Have you ever witnessed a Christian leader act in a way that didn't honor God? How did this impact your view of God and the church?

Exploring the Word – Malachi 2:1-14

1. As you listened to the message, what points stood out?
2. Read Malachi 2:1-4. Covenant love is an unconditional two-sided relationship that requires effort from everyone involved. Were the priests acting in a way that honored God? What kind of example were they setting for the people and other nations?
3. Read Malachi 2:5-9. In what ways had the priests corrupted the covenant God made with the Levites? How had they caused the people "to stumble into sin?"
4. Read Matthew 5:29-31 and Romans 14:20-24. How are we instructed to act if we think we might be causing a believer to stumble?
5. Read Malachi 2:10-14. Why were the men of Judah divorcing their wives? In what circumstances can divorce be justified? (refer to Matthew 19:4-9 & 1 Corinthians 7:15).
6. Covenant relationships are important to God. What are some ways that you can strengthen your covenant relationship with Christ and, if you are married, with your spouse?



Malachi 2:1-14

I. God's covenant law (v. 1-4)

- There are natural laws.
- There are moral laws.
- There are spiritual laws.
- Covenant love is God's prescription for relational treatment of one another.
- Covenant love is unconditional two-sided relationship.
- Exploitation is unconditional one-sided relationship.

II. The purpose of covenant (vv. 5-10)

- Covenant love provides peace and security for "the other" for life.
- Covenant love is not a license to exploit "the other".
- Life contains fun, but is not comprised of it.
- Covenant love assumes responsibility for the spiritual well-being of "the other".
- Love does not exist where unilateral decisions are made.

III. God's illustration for covenant (vv. 10-14)

- Times may change, but the standard for truth and love does not.
- A wedding vow is first to God and then to our spouse.
- It is not too difficult to serve anyone, but it is difficult to love everyone.
- Unfaithfulness in marriage is the sin of adultery.