



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 or someone you are close to been impacted by divorce? How did this affect you?

Exploring the Word – Malachi 2:14-3:4

1. As you listened to the message, what points stood out?
2. Read Genesis 2:18-25 & Ephesians 5:31-33. Why is marriage so important to God? For what purposes did he design it?
3. Read Malachi 2:14-15. How do these verses reiterate the importance of the marriage covenant? How does unfaithfulness violate this?
4. Why is the Trinity of God the ultimate example of mutual submission and oneness in marriage? In what ways can we emulate the love between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in the marriage relationship?
5. Read Malachi 2:16-17. Why does God “hate” divorce? Is divorce, then, an unforgivable sin? Does the culture we live in seem to value the covenant of marriage?
6. Read Malachi 3:1-4. How does God promise to respond to the people’s negative words in Malachi 2:17? Who is the messenger that Malachi is referring to? How will this help refine them (refer to Romans 3:25-26)?



Malachi 2:14-3:4

I. The covenant of marriage (vv. 14-15)

- A marriage vow is first to _____ and then to our spouse.
- Marital unfaithfulness includes the sins of _____ and _____.
- Marriage is correlative to the _____ of God.
- Covenant love provides _____ and _____ for “the other” for life.
- Sex in marriage is as _____ as worship and as _____ as keeping Sabbath for covenant renewal. (1 Cor. 7:5, Heb. 10:25)

II. The sin of divorce (vv. 16-17)

- God _____ divorce.
- Divorce is an act of emotional, intellectual and spiritual _____.
- Divorce is _____.
- There are _____ reasons to divorce.
- Divorce is not an _____ sin and so there is redemption. (Jn. 4:15-38, Rom. 8:1, 1 Cor. 6:9-11)

III. The correlation between the salvation and marriage covenants (3:1-4)

- God _____ our needs in the salvation covenant.
- The Lord Jesus is the _____ in the salvation covenant.
- Every person is _____ for covenant love, but no one _____ it.
- Love is freely bestowed whereas _____ is earned.
- Covenant relationship _____ “the self” through “the other”.