

Malachi #2 Small Group Guide: "Devotion to God"

Malachi 1:6-22:

Opening Prayer



Key Takeaways:

1. God desires and deserves our wholehearted devotion.
2. Half-hearted worship is offensive to God.
3. True devotion requires sacrifice and our best efforts.
4. Our devotion should stem from a deep understanding of God's love and Christ's sacrifice.

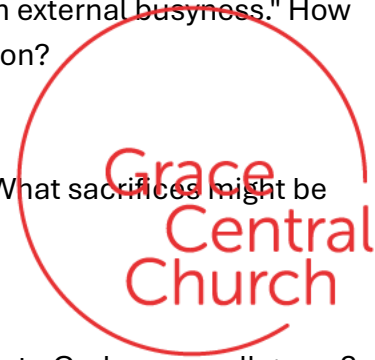
Discussion Questions:

1. How would you describe the difference between wholehearted and half-hearted devotion to God? Can you share examples from your own life?
2. PJ mentioned offering "leftovers" to God. In what areas of your life might you be giving God your leftovers instead of your best?
3. How does understanding God's love and Christ's sacrifice impact our motivation for devotion?
4. What are some practical ways we can cultivate a heart of reverence and awe for God in our daily lives?

5. PJ stated, "God is more concerned with internal holiness than external ~~business~~." How can we ensure our outward actions align with our inward devotion?

6. Discuss the "cost of Christianity" mentioned in the sermon. What sacrifices might be necessary to give God our best?

7. How can we help each other maintain wholehearted devotion to God as a small group?



Practical Applications:

1. This week, identify one area where you can improve your devotion to God (e.g., prayer, Bible study, service). Make a specific plan to give your best in that area.

2. Reflect on God's love and Christ's sacrifice daily. Write down how this impacts your motivation for devotion.

3. Choose one "sacrifice" you can make this week to prioritize your relationship with God (e.g., waking up earlier for prayer, fasting from social media to spend time in Scripture).

4. Partner with another group member to encourage and hold each other accountable in your devotion to God.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for His love and grace. Ask for His help in cultivating wholehearted devotion and the strength to offer our best to Him.

5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide:

Day 1: God's Unfailing Love

Reading: Malachi 1:1-5

Devotional: God's love for us is not based on our performance but on His promise. Reflect on how this truth impacts your relationship with God. How does knowing God's love is unconditional change the way you approach Him? Take time to thank God for His steadfast love and commit to loving Him wholeheartedly in return.



Day 2: Honoring God with Our Best

Reading: Malachi 1:6-14

Devotional: God deserves our highest praise and our best offerings. Consider areas in your life where you might be giving God your "leftovers" instead of your best. How can you shift your priorities to honor God more fully? Pray for a renewed perspective on worship and ask God to help you offer your whole self as a living sacrifice.

Day 3: The Cost of Discipleship

Reading: Luke 14:25-33

Devotional: Following Christ comes with a cost. Reflect on what sacrifices you might need to make to give God your best. Are there areas of your life you're holding back from God? Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any idols in your heart and give you the courage to surrender them fully to Christ.

Day 4: Whole-Hearted Devotion

Reading: Revelation 3:14-22

Devotional: God desires our fervent devotion rather than lukewarm faith. Examine your spiritual temperature. Are you on fire for God, or have you become complacent? Pray for a renewed passion for Christ and His kingdom. Consider practical steps you can take to rekindle your zeal for God.

Day 5: Fixing Our Eyes on Jesus

Reading: Hebrews 12:1-3

Devotional: True devotion to God flows from a heart captivated by Christ. Meditate on the sacrifice Jesus made for you. How does His example inspire you to live more fully for God? Spend time in worship, focusing on the person and work of Christ. Ask God to help you keep your gaze fixed on Jesus in all aspects of your life.

