

This week's study delves into both James 4:1-10 and Malachi 2:10-16, exploring the underlying themes of faithfulness, wisdom, and the dangers of double-mindedness and idolatry. May God help us to examine our hearts and actions, considering how they align with His call for singular devotion and wisdom.


- 1 **Discuss the concept of double-mindedness together.** Read James 1:6-8. As a group, answer the following questions about this concept:

 *What is double-mindedness? Why does double-mindedness keep you from having the wisdom to follow the Lord?*


 *Work together to come up with an illustration of what double-mindedness is or looks like.*

 *As individuals, share how you are double-minded and some of the consequences of your double-mindedness.*

- 2 **Both Malachi 2 and James 4 addressed the topic of idolatry.** Idols never satisfy, because idols can't satisfy. But, that doesn't stop us from finding them attractive. Why do you think that is? Why do we pursue them?

 *What are the consequences of following after idols? See also Isaiah 44:9-20, Romans 1:21-25, Jeremiah 2:11-13, Galatians 4:8-9, Psalm 115:4-8, 1 Corinthians 10:14-22*

 *Be brave and share one of your idols and allow the rest of the group to help you think about the value of that idol.*

 *Malachi 2 brings up how even marriage can become an idol. How might someone turn a good desire for marriage into an idol? Contrast those temptations with what the Bible teaches about marriage God's way and waiting in singleness as a part of God's good plan.*

3 **God's jealousy for His children is right and proper.** Read the following verses and talk about the importance and beauty of God's jealousy for you. (Deuteronomy 6:4-6, Isaiah 48:11, Exodus 20:3-5, Revelation 4:11, Zechariah 8:2)

4 **Malachi 2:10-16 addresses interfaith marriage and divorce.** What are some of the temptations someone faces to compromise or devalue the gospel when it comes to someone they really like?

⚙️ *What are some practical difficulties that arise in marrying someone with a different worldview?*

🗨️ *How should we think about restrictions like this from God? Is He trying to impede our joy or squelch our future happiness with some of his marital requirements?*

💡 *How would you talk with someone considering an interfaith marriage?*

5 **Why is divorce contrary to the biblical ideal for marriage?** How does divorce misrepresent Christ?

⚙️ *There are two potential exceptions for divorce found in scripture. What are they? See Matt 19:8-9, 1 Cor 7:15*

🗨️ *How should we respond to divorce in our culture? Think especially of how the church can minister grace to divorcees and their children?*

♥️ *If you've gone through a divorce, how did the Lord help you, lead you, or comfort you through the difficulty?*

6 **Malachi 2 describes how personal decisions like marrying an unbeliever divorcing your spouse can impact the church community.** Can you think of a time you thought your sin was personal or private, but it ended up having broader ramifications? Why is it important for us to think of our sins' impact on the community not just on us as individuals?