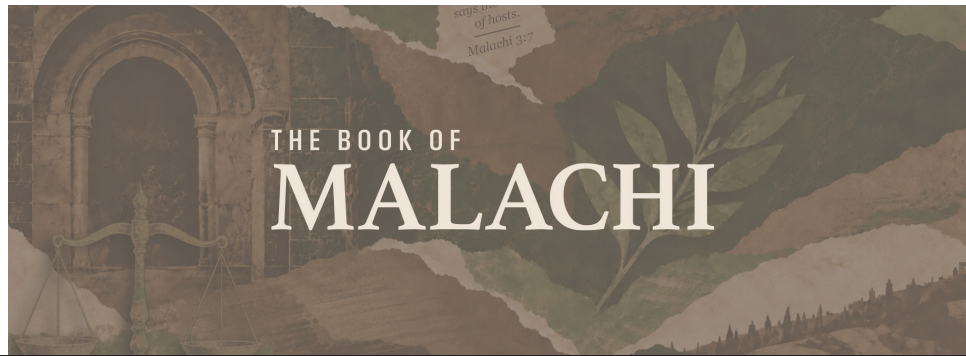




## CONVERSATION STARTER

Who is someone (or a couple) in your life who has demonstrated faithfulness over the years within their marriage covenant? What about their example has impacted you?

## DEEPER

### Read Malachi 2:10-16

1. God describes marriage as a covenant in verse 14. What makes a covenant different from a commitment based primarily on feelings, circumstances, or personal satisfaction?
2. In verse 15, God commands his people to guard themselves in their spirit. What attitudes, desires, or expectations might slowly lead someone toward unfaithfulness in marriage, even before any outward betrayal takes place?
3. Although Malachi specifically addresses unfaithfulness in marriage, what other relationships or responsibilities has God entrusted to us where faithfulness matters?

### Read Ecclesiastes 5:4-7 and Psalm 15:1-5

4. Psalm 15 describes a faithful person as someone who keeps their promises even when it hurts. Why is faithfulness often most clearly demonstrated when it requires personal sacrifice?
5. Is there a relationship, responsibility, or commitment in your life where you've been tempted to prioritize your own comfort or desires over faithfulness (whether within a marriage covenant or other relationships)? What would honoring God in that situation look like?

### Read 2 Corinthians 1:20

6. God's faithfulness is ultimately demonstrated through Jesus Christ and his sacrifice for us. How does remembering God's faithfulness toward us change the way we approach our own struggles to remain faithful?

7. As you consider today's passage, where might God be calling you to greater faithfulness? What is one practical step you can take this week to respond in obedience?
8. Whether married or unmarried, how can we help cultivate a culture within the church that honors marriage as a sacred covenant and encourages couples to persevere through difficulties?

## NOTES

## PRAYER PROMPT

Spend time thanking God for his unwavering faithfulness toward us, even when we have been unfaithful to him. Pray that he would help us view marriage as a sacred covenant and give married couples the humility, love, and perseverance to remain faithful through every season. Ask God to reveal any selfish desires, unrealistic expectations, or attitudes that may be hindering our faithfulness to others. Pray that each of us, whether married or unmarried, would reflect God's covenant faithfulness in our relationships, commitments, and everyday lives.