



## CONNECT GROUP GUIDE

### “GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS” WEEK 2: MALACHI 1:6-29

#### Devotion

Last week, God lovingly reminded His people of His steadfast love for them. But because of that deep love, He now confronts them—and us—about our lack of true devotion. The Israelites had become complacent in their worship, merely going through the motions when it came to offering sacrifices. Instead of bringing their best to God, they were offering Him their leftovers. As the Creator of all things, God deserves nothing less than our best—whether it’s in our time, our talents, or our treasures. True devotion to God is about giving Him the honor He deserves, not simply fulfilling a religious duty. The only way to be truly devoted to God is to first understand His love for you. When we grasp the depth of God’s love for us, it transforms the way we worship, serve, and live. Devotion flows naturally from a heart that has been deeply impacted by God’s grace and mercy. This is why it is important for us to remind ourselves of the Gospel every single day!

#### Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing you value most in a relationship (e.g., honesty, trust, sacrifice)? Why? *This question will help set the tone for discussing what true devotion to God looks like.*
2. How do we sometimes offer God “blemished sacrifices” today? What might that look like in our own lives?
3. In Chapter 1 verse 13, the people say “what a burden!” Does going to church, reading the Word or praying sometimes feel like burden? Why do you think this is?
4. Over and over God mentions that “His name” would be feared, made great and honored among the nations. Take a minute and think about who God is. Have each person tell who God is to them.
5. Read Revelation 3:15-20. Based on this passage, would you consider yourself cold, lukewarm or hot when it comes to your relationship with Jesus?
6. Read Acts 2:42-47. What do you see the early Church devoted to? Where did the devotion to do these things come from? *(They understood the Gospel)*
7. What steps can we take to deepen our personal devotion to God in light of this passage? Consider areas where you may be offering less than your best to God and think about how you can realign your priorities to honor Him more fully in your daily life.

Encourage everyone to reflect on one area where they can offer God their “best” this week (time, talents, resources, relationships, etc.) and take intentional steps to live with deeper devotion to Him.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Baptism Sunday is November 24. If you would like to take your next step please let Pastor Stanley know.