

04/19

HOME GROUP GUIDE

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

LISTEN

Listen to the sermon and read through the main passage(s)



REFLECT

Prayerfully answer the questions below



DISCUSS

Meet with your group to discuss



RESPOND

Apply the truth of God's word to your life

BACKGROUND:

Scripture consistently emphasizes that God is unchanging. In Malachi 3:6, God declares, "I the Lord do not change." Yet this "divine immutability" stands in stark contrast to the constantly changing nature of his people, a reality we see played out in events surrounding Malachi's ministry. After returning from exile and rebuilding the temple, Israel anticipated swift restoration and blessings. When these did not materialize, their discouragement grew, leading to compromise and self-deception. They maintained outward religious acts, but their hearts drifted from God.

God's unchanging nature offers both warning and hope. It warns us that, because his holiness and justice remain constant, he will not overlook sin. But it is also a source of hope because his covenant faithfulness does not waver. He does not abandon his people. The call is clear: while God does not change, we must. Through a fear of the Lord and a commitment to community, God invites us to himself, promising an unchanging inheritance to those who fear him.

OPEN:

1. How do you typically respond when things don't turn out as you expect?

REFLECT:

2. Read Malachi 3:6-15. What does God mean by, "I do not change"? What can make this both comforting and unsettling?

3. When expectations are not met, the people become disheartened and discouraged. Instead of focusing on God's temple, they prioritize their personal interests. Why does disappointment frequently cause spiritual drift? How can unmet expectations impact one's perception of God?

4. Read Malachi 3:16-18. What stands out about "those who fear the Lord" from others? What role did community play in their response?

APPLY:

5. Why should God's unchanging nature lead us to take sin seriously? What does it look like to live with reverence for his unchanging nature?

6. What are some ways people today can maintain religious appearances while compromising matters of faith? How can we identify and address this early?

7. Are there areas of your life where discouragement could be tempting you to drift spiritually? How could becoming more involved with the community of faith help you to draw closer to God?

**FOR MORE RESOURCES, ACCESS THE HOME GROUP QUESTIONS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP APP,
OR HEAD TO OUR WEBSITE AT [FELLOWSHIPJACKSON.COM/HOMEGROUPGUIDE](https://fellowshipjackson.com/homegroupguide)**