

SERVICE OUTLINE

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Ben Tanner

SONGS All Creatures of our God and King
O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer

CHILDREN'S ITEM

SONG All Through History

5-11s leave for children's church in the scout hut (they will be brought back to the hall after the service). There are also separate crèches / groups for 0-4s in the hall.

SONG Now in Reverence and Awe

BIBLE READING

Laura Buckland

Malachi 2:1 -16 p.960
(Chinese Bibles p.770)

SERMON

Ben Tanner

Extended sermon notes in simple English are available on the welcome desk for anyone who would find them helpful.

CONFESSION

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

PRAYERS

Alice Wright

SONGS There is strength within the sorrow
Great is thy faithfulness

CLOSING PRAYER

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GROWTH GROUPS & FAMILY TABLETALK

Some growth groups meet during the week over the summer. Part of what we do is to help each other think through more deeply what we learn on Sundays—and then be ready to change as a result.

1. What struck, challenged or encouraged you in the teaching from God's word on Sunday?
2. Has your Christianity grown a bit 'run of the mill'? How might the accusations in v2 be true of you?
3. How might these warnings affect your prayers for your homegroup leader / the staff team / kids group leaders and for yourself?
4. Why is marrying the daughter of a foreign God described in such graphic language? (v10-11) It may help to look up Ex 34:16, Deut 7:3-4, Ez 9:1-5, Neh 9:23-27 & 1 Cor 7:39

MALACHI 2:1–16

SERMON NOTES

Introduction

Covenant of Levi (1-9)

Covenant of Fathers (10-12)

Covenant of Marriage (13-16)

Conclusion: The heart that will not break faith.

5. As a church, how do we help those for whom this is a costly command?
6. Regarding the marriage covenant, what might it look like for someone to guard their hearts?
7. If a heart that breaks faith breaks covenant, how does Christ's faithfulness offer a better hope for those struggling with the issues raised in this passage?

And here is a question for parents and children to discuss over a meal time one day...

In what ways do our hearts not love God even when we are doing the right things?