## The Ties that Bind

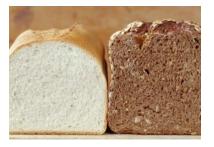
Matthew 16:1-12

## **Getting Started**

What was one of the fads when you were growing up?

## Digging In

- 1. Read Matthew 16:1-4. In your own words, why did the Pharisees and Sadducees come to Jesus?
- 2. Do you think theirs was a reasonable request? Why or why not?
- 3. Jesus responds by quoting a weather proverb. What is his point?
- 4. Jesus accuses the religious leaders of being able to forecast the weather, but of not being able to interpret the *signs of the times*. To what kinds of signs is he referring?
- 5. What time was it on God's calendar?
- 6. Why did Jesus call that generation wicked and adulterous?
- 7. What was the sign of Jonah? (Matt 12:38-40)



- 8. Read Matthew 16:5-12. Why did the disciples think Jesus was rebuking them for not bringing any bread?
- 9. How did the disciples discussion reveal a lack of faith on their part?
- 10. What did Jesus mean when he warned the disciples about the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees?
- 11. What was dangerous about the teaching of these religious leaders?
- 12. How can it be a problem for us today?

## **Getting Personal**

- In your own personal experience, have you been more influenced by the yeast of the Pharisees or the yeast of the Sadducees?
- How can we guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees?
- What are some other kinds of false or imbalanced teaching that threaten the health of the church today?