



Sermon Discussion Guide for I AM Worship Church

Casseroles With Characters

Pastor Mark Ogletree • Sunday, December 03, 2023



We hope this material will continue to minister as the sermon was preached during our weekly worship service. When we receive God's Word at church, we need not only to hear the message, but we ought to walk it out in our daily lives. We should "be doers of the word, not only hearers." (James 1:22)

Step 1: GET TOGETHER with your family or group.

Step 2: REVIEW the key points and scriptures from the message.

Step 3: SHARE with your group what God is saying to you through the message.

Step 4: PRAY together, for each other and over each other to continue to walk this word out.

The Big Idea

Today we delve into navigating familial gatherings, particularly during the holiday season, through the lens of Christian wisdom and behavior.

When gathering for a holiday dinner, there are always lots of interesting family dynamics, and Pastor Mark takes time to categorize the challenging personalities commonly encountered... followed by offering biblical guidance on how to respond to them.

Most importantly, in these moments, we must remember to embody Christ-like character amidst interpersonal challenges, emphasizing fellowship over conflict resolution, and personal growth through divine transformation.

Don't Miss This Point!

Ephesians 6:12 reminds believers that our struggles are not merely against flesh and blood but against spiritual forces. Pastor Mark highlights the necessity of preparing oneself spiritually and emotionally for familial interactions, encouraging individuals to respond to challenges with the wisdom and grace prescribed by Scripture.

By reframing conflicts within the spiritual realm, believers are urged to adopt a Christ-centered approach to interpersonal relationships, focusing on forgiveness, empathy, and humility.

Another Great Point!

There are some practical strategies for managing difficult personalities during holiday gatherings, and we can draw from biblical principles such as **James 1:19** and **Matthew 6:14-15**.

In his sermon, Pastor Mark advocates for proactive decision-making and compassionate understanding. Believers are encouraged to cultivate resilience, discernment, and a Christ-like attitude in the face of interpersonal challenges, thereby reflecting the transformative power of faith in their interactions with others.



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One Last Point!

In Romans 12:21, believers are urged not to be overcome by evil but to overcome evil with good. It is of utmost importance to rise above contentious situations and embody the virtues of love, patience, and forgiveness.

By refusing to engage in negative dynamics and trusting in God's sovereignty, individuals can maintain their integrity and witness amidst familial conflicts, thereby demonstrating the transformative power of Christ's teachings.

Let's Be Doers!

As a believer empowered by Christ, be empowered to approach holiday gatherings with a spirit of fellowship and humility, prioritizing personal growth and relational harmony.

Rather than seeking to change others, we are called to focus on our own character development and spiritual transformation, and by embodying Christ-like virtues and responding to challenges with grace and wisdom, we as believers can cultivate an atmosphere of love and acceptance within their families, ultimately reflecting the redemptive power of Christ in their lives.