



Sermon Discussion Guide for I AM Worship Church

Casseroles w/ Characters

Pastor Mark Ogletree • Sunday, November 23, 2025



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

Holidays put casseroles on the table and characters in the room—but God's Word reminds us that the real battle isn't against "those people," it's spiritual. The enemy loves to use gossip, drama, offense, and old wounds to divide families, drain joy, and derail our witness. The big question isn't "What's wrong with them?" but "How will I respond?" Will I react in the flesh like everyone else, or pre-decide to walk in the Spirit and bring the presence of Christ to the table?

Don't Miss This Point!

Read James 1:19-21. Your actions determine the direction of the dinner. Be "quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry" because anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. We can't control the Drama Mama, the Gossiper, or the One-Upper—but we *can* control our response. Tough skin and a tender heart keep us from being easily offended while protecting our witness.

Another Great Point!

Read Ephesians 6:10-12. People aren't your enemy—Satan's strategy is. Paul reminds us that our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against spiritual forces at work behind the scenes. That means the Gaslighter, the Nitpicker, and the Bitter Pickle are often speaking from hurt, fear, or spiritual attack, not just personality. Considering the source with empathy doesn't excuse wrong behavior, but it helps us see beyond it.

One Last Point!

Read 1 Peter 2:22-23. Refuse to play the game and rise above it. Jesus modeled this: "He didn't retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly." Instead of matching drama with drama or offense with offense, we overcome evil with good. Forgiving before they apologize and decline to join gossip and arguments.

Let's Be Doers!

Pre-decide before you show up to the table. (1) Pray before you go. (2) Put on God's armor daily, remembering this is a spiritual battle, not a people problem. (3) Choose to let small comments roll off, and keep your heart soft toward God and people. (4) Forgive quickly, and refuse to take bait. (5) Show up not to fix everyone but to **bring Jesus** to the table.