

"Seasoning the Season"

Seasoning Our Gatherings

12/12/21

Discussion Guide

Read the passage. What stands out to you and why?

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:12-17

1. Our relationship with our families is a funny thing. We love to celebrate the holidays with family but at the same time, its family that can ruin our holidays. What's your fondest Christmas memory and what's you most painful Christmas memory?
2. What were Christmases like in your family of origin (the family you grew up in as a child)?
3. Did you do anything different with your family to make your Christmas gatherings more peaceful and enjoyable or did they become more challenging because now you had to deal with your spouse's family as well?
4. Divorce and or death of a loved one presents even more challenges to our holiday gatherings. If you experienced either one, what helped you celebrate Christmas or at the least make it through the holiday?
5. You may have never thought of it before but what impact does a person's self-worth or self-esteem have on family relationships? How have you seen this played out during the Christmas season?
6. What impact could our identify in Christ have on our family gatherings during Christmas?

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7. Look at all the characteristics of Christ in Colossians 3:12-14. Which ones sticks out to you as having the greatest impact on your future family gatherings? Are there any you need to work on?
8. Look at the three sources of power that will enable you to be more Christ-like at family gatherings. Which one has been the most impactful for you?
9. What Christmas song helps put or keep you in the Christmas Spirit and why?
10. What Christmas movie helps put you or keep you in the Christmas Spirit and why?
11. Final thoughts?

End with one of your favorite songs that help put and keep you in the right frame of mind during Christmas. If you don't have one consider listening to "Be Born in Me" by Francesca Battistelli.