



## STUDY GUIDE – December 15, 2019

**Message Title: Family**  
**Teaching Pastor: Angie Frame**

*This study guide has been designed for Small Groups in mind, and can be used by individuals as well.*

### **Check-in:**

How can we celebrate your past week? How can we pray for you?

### **Pray:**

Pray for our time together, that the Holy Spirit enlarges our perspectives of what Christmas journeys could be.

### **Get Started:**

What's your favorite Christmas movie?

Which Christmas movie mirrors you or your family the most? How?

Angie supposes there are 3 types of people on family Christmas journeys, those who...

- expect perfection
- expect problems
- expect presence

She suggests Clarke Griswold is the perfection type; do you have additional suggestions? Name a Christmas character who expects problems and one who expects presence.

As you relate to family, which of the 3 to you tend to fall into?

What does the phrase "expect presence," not to be confused with "expect presents," mean to you? What does it look like?

What distracts us from being present with friends and family at Christmas?

What about your Christmas family journey is difficult for you?

### **Watch and Discuss the Video:**

Read Luke 1:39-42. How could you remind yourself of the Holy Spirit's presence with your family this Christmas?

**Dive in:**

Read Luke 1:25. Elizabeth shares that her disgrace had been removed.

- Have you ever felt that you were the object of family chatter? Have you experienced disgrace being removed in any way?

Read Luke 1:57-58. Elizabeth goes from being disgraced among her people to celebrating with them.

- Have you ever returned to family gatherings after being shunned or distant for a period of time? Or, have you been a family member who celebrated holidays with someone who returned after a time of disgrace?
- If so, then how did that go--for the one who'd been disgraced? for the other family members?
- Did anyone struggle to celebrate (like the elder son in the Parable of the Prodigal Son that we studied recently)?

**Reflect:**

Is there a journey you might risk taking this Christmas?

Is there a disgraced member of your family with whom you could be present this Christmas?

**Commit:**

If you tend to expect perfection, then let go of one of your expectations this Christmas.

If you tend to expect problems, then make notes of 5 things that are good or go well this Christmas.

**Pray:**

that God would help you let go of pursuing perfection and seeing problems everywhere. Pray that he would help you be present with your family this Christmas, maybe longer.