SMALL GROUPS A DROP FROM THE ALTAR | SENIOR ADULTS | EVENTS



KEEPING THE
NARCISSIST FROM
RUINING YOUR
HOLIDAY

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

BORN TO RUN



WHEN WE PRAY

COMBINED
WORSHIP CHOIR
PHOTOS

WHY ADVENT MATTERS



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in this issue...

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The message the world needs now more than ever.

08 born to run

On Saturday, November 8th, 2025, our Team from Live Oak Church joined Woman's New Life Clinic's (WNLC) annual Born to Run event in Baton Rouge.

10 why advent matters

Seize the day with your children, and fill this season with presence, joy, and faith.

12 combined worship choir

Sunday, Nov. 30, was an incredible time of worship and teaching as we joined together to kick off the Christmas season!

14 senior adults

Updates for the end of the year.

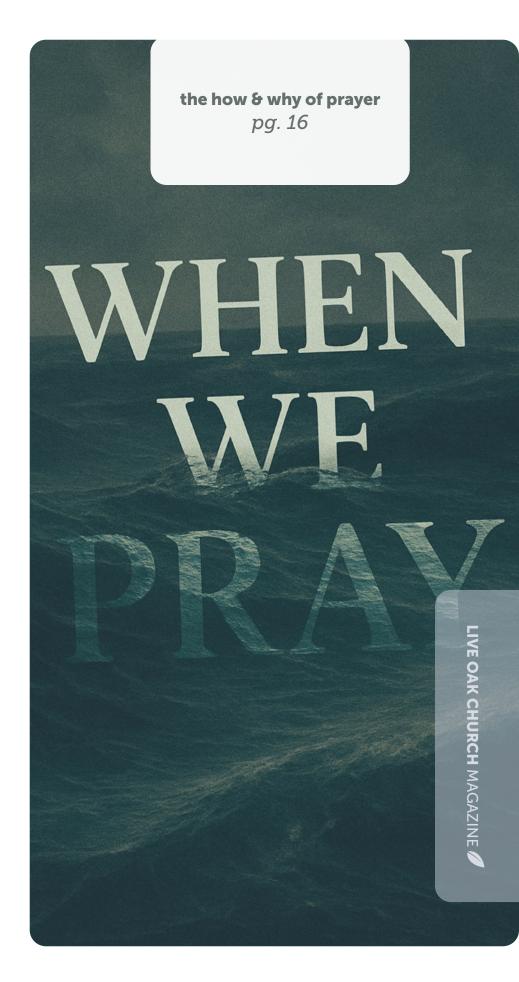
19 keeping the narcissist from ruining your holiday

One narcissistic family member can turn a celebration into chaos.



05 SMALL GROUPS

22 MEET OUR TEAM



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

A time and a place for everyone

For more information about groups and events visit www.liveoak.church or call (225) 664-4801.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY

8:00 AM Worship Service

8:45 AM Children & Pre-Teen Sunday School Sherri Gardner: 1st-4th Grade - Upstairs in FLC Jodi Rushing: 5th-6th

8:45 AM Students 7th-12th Grade: Dawn Lott - Upstairs in FLC

8:45 AM Adult Small Groups: See Page 5 for Full List

9:30 AM Children's Ministry - 1st-4th Grade - FLC 9:30 AM Preteen - 5th-6th Grade - Chapel

9:30 AM Worship Service

11:00 AM Children's Ministry - 1st-4th Grade - FLC

11:00 AM Preteen - 5th-6th Grade - Chapel

11:00 AM Worship Service

6:00 PM Young Adults Worship Service - Chapel

WEDNESDAY

8:00 AM Quilters Ministry - FLC 9:30 AM Worship Wednesday - Online

6:30 - 7:30 | Nursery | Infants-2 y/o

6:30 - 7:30 | Preschool | Pre-K3 to Kindergarten

6:30 - 7:30 | Kids | 1st-4th

6:30 - 7:30 | Preteen | 5th-6th

6:30 - 7:30 | Student Ministry | 7th-12th

6:30 - 7:30 | Worship & Study | Adults

6:30 - 7:30 | Study | Young Adults

Download the App





Church Map





ADULT BIBLE STUDIES ***

small group | large group

Sunday 8:45 AM

Young Adults Class // **Evangelism** // Krist & Katie Norsworthy The Loft (Sanctuary Upstairs)

Adults Class // Romans // David Orges - Room #214

Median Adult Class // Micah // Dickie Davis - Room #202

Senior Adult Class // **Topical** // Layne Hutchinson - Room #212

Pastor's Class // **Gospel of Luke** // Dr. Mark Crosby - Choir Room

New Member Class // Bro. Sam LoBello - Room #201

Sunday 9:30 AM

Co-ed Class // **Topical** // Robert Poole - Room #211

Couples Class // Romans //
Todd & Sealy Pettavino - Room #202

Sunday Evenings

4:00 PM // **Doctrinal Study** // Layne Hutchinson & Jon Williams -Room #202

6:00 PM // Young Adults // Worship Service // Krist Norsworthy - Chapel



Monday

6:00 PM // Men's Discipleship Group // Topical // Robert Poole's Home

6:30 PM // Deeper Life Men // **The Gospel of Matthew** // David Tate - Room #201

6:30 PM // Deeper Life Women //

Angels: Finding Hope in God Who Reigns over Heaven and Earth // Jan Tate - Chapel

Tuesday

6:30 PM // Exploring Ezekiel (1st & 3rd Tuesday) // Stephen Hebert - Chapel

6:30 PM // Grief Support Group (2nd & 4th Tuesday) // Stephen Hebert -Chapel

Wednesday 6:30 PM

Worship & Study // Topical // Dr. Mark // Sanctuary

Young Adults Class // A Biblical Guide to Life and Faith (Adulting 101) //
Krist Norsworthy - The Loft

Thursday

6:00 PM // Men's Play & Pray Basketball // Jim Otken - FLC

7:00 PM // REFUGE Addiction Recovery // Sam LoBello - Room #201

Friday

5:30 AM // Men's Group // Acts // Jim Otken - Room #202

6:00 PM // Co-ed // Acts // Robert Poole - Room #202

Second Saturday of Each Month

7:30 AM // Mens Prayer Breakfast & Study // Tame Your Thoughts // Sam LoBello -Room #202





from the PASTOR'S DESK



opefully, by the time most of you read this, I will be on my way to recovering from my "hip surgery." I am also hoping and praying that you all had a Happy Thanksgiving and truly gave thanks to our great God and Savior.

I hope you had a chance to enjoy your family, have some time off, and kept some of the family traditions that bring joy to your family.

Now it is time for the Christmas Season as we celebrate the birth of Jesus the Messiah. I hope this Christmas season, you and your family will focus on God's gift of eternal life and amazing grace. That this is the message the world needs now more than ever. As the world seems to be in such pain and our nation so divided, the message of faith, hope, and love needs to be shared.

That is what the message of Christmas is: "Behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which shall be for all people, for unto us is born this day a Savior who is Christ the Lord." This

announcement has brought joy, meaning, and hope to countless millions over the centuries.

I hope this announcement will resonate in your life this Christmas season. I pray that you will know and embrace the good news of great joy, and that by receiving this news, you will be blessed this Christmas season.

I hope to see all of you soon as I recover from surgery.

In the meantime, rejoice in the birth of the Messiah, and have a great Christmas Season and share the good news of great joy.

Merry Christmas Hope to see you Sunday! REJOICE IN THE BIRTH OF THE **MESSIAH**

Senior Pastor

HELPING THE MOST HELPLESS AMONG US







On Saturday, November 8th, 2025, our Team from Live Oak Church joined Woman's New Life Clinic's (WNLC) annual Born to Run event in Baton Rouge. WNLC is a Christian organization that provides life-affirming counseling and medical services to women facing unplanned pregnancies in the Greater Baton Rouge and New Orleans areas. This was our third year participating, and Team Live Oak Church was the largest Team that we've ever had! With over 65 members, this year our Team was nearly twice as large as last year! Many of our members participated in the 5K Race; others in the 1/2 Mile Fun Run; and some of us simply hung out, fellowshipped, and took lots of pictures! People from a number of other churches in the Baton Rouge area were present too, all coming together to support life-affirming care. This year, the event raised over \$160,000, surpassing previous records. We look forward to doing this again next year, and we hope you will join us!





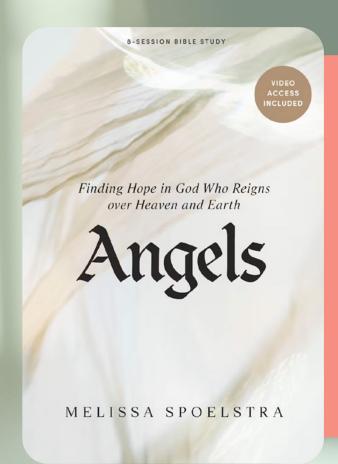








DEEPER LIFE



WOMEN'S DEEPER LIFE IS LAUNCHING A NEW STUDY!

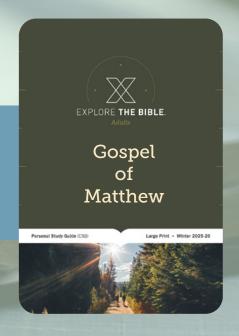
Angels by Melissa Spoelstra

We will track angels from Genesis to Revelation and learn about who they are, what they do, and what they have to do with you.

Begins Monday, January 12th at 6:30 PM in the Chapel

FOR MEN
Mondays at 6:30
in the 201

The Gospel of Matthew



Why Advent Matters



The Story Behind the Tradition and How Your Family Can Seek Jesus This Season

by Faith Storck, Director of Children's Ministry

Parents, let us keep it real for a moment. December storms in like it has been waiting all year to cause problems. Suddenly, your schedule is fuller than the church parking lot on Sunday. Your kids suddenly have nineteen Christmas parties. Someone needs a costume for a program you definitely forgot existed. Amazon drivers basically live at your house now. It is the most wonderful time of the year, but it is also the most chaotic.

Which is exactly why Advent matters so much.

Believe it or not, the Advent calendar did not begin with chocolate, tiny toys, or trendy versions that cost more than your electric bill. The whole idea began in the early 1800s in Germany when families wanted a simple way to help their children prepare their hearts for Christmas. Imagine that for a moment. Slowing down in December. Revolutionary.

In those early days, families marked each December day with something simple. Some erased one chalk mark from the door. Some lit a candle. Some added a piece of straw to the manger. No glitter glue. No twenty-step craft tutorials. No pressure. Just small daily reminders that Jesus was coming soon.

By the late 1800s, families began making homemade paper Advent calendars. Then in 1908, a German printer named Gerhard Lang created the first printed Advent calendar. He got the idea from the Advent calendar his mother made for him when he was young. Once again proving the truth that behind every great idea is a mom who already thought of it first.

A few years later, he added the little doors that you open each day. Kids lost their minds. Honestly, adults did too because everyone loves opening tiny surprises in December. From there, Advent calendars spread across the world, and eventually, chocolate got involved, which only made the world a better place.

But here is the heart of it all. Advent was never meant to be about treats. It was always meant to help families pause long enough to remember the entire point of Christmas. Jesus came near.

And yes, December is still loud. Your list is still long. Your kids are still running laps around the house, fueled entirely by sugar. But Advent gives you small daily moments to breathe and point your children toward what really matters.

This is exactly why we gave your family the Seek Jesus Advent Box in November. Not to give you more to do. Not to add pressure. The box exists to help your children understand that Christmas is not about racing through the season. It is about seeking the Savior.

Each day gives you a simple moment to slow down. A verse to read. A truth to hold. A chance to talk about Jesus without scrambling to come up with the conversation yourself.

Parents hear this clearly. Your kids do not need a perfect Christmas. They do not need five hundred activities. They do not need anything monogrammed or color coordinated. They simply need to see Jesus reflected in you. Real you. Tired you. Trying your best you.

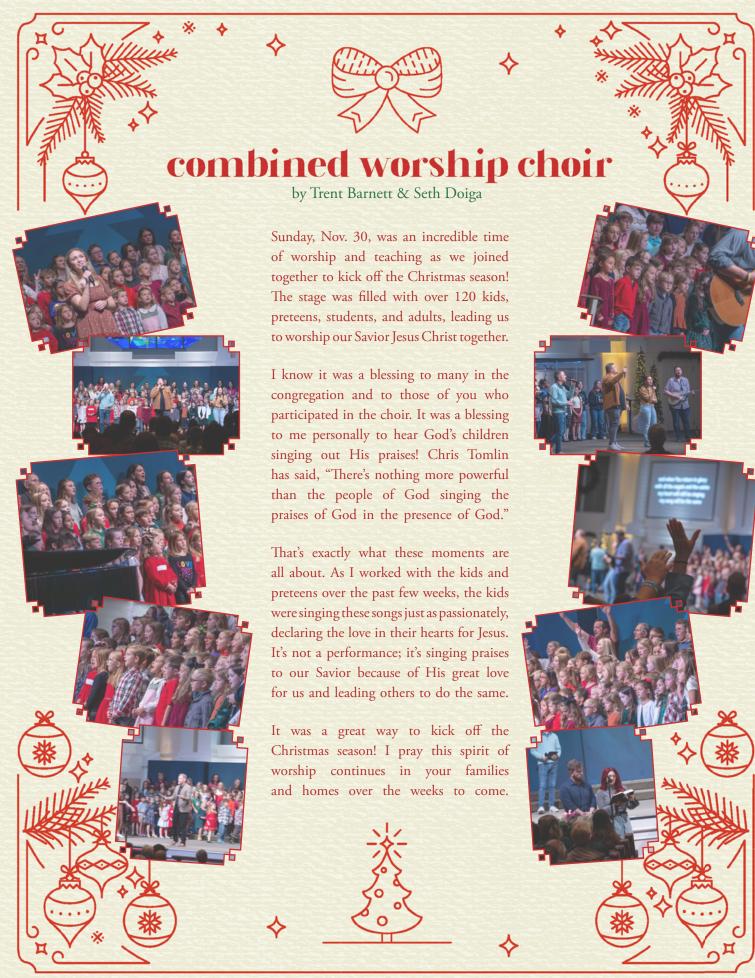
So this December, do not just count the days until Christmas morning. Seek Jesus in those days. Laugh together. Try again when things fall apart. Let your kids see that Jesus is the steady foundation in a season that loves to run at full speed.

And honestly, we cannot wait to see your Seek Jesus Advent Box moments. Whether your children are sweetly searching for the hidden puzzle piece like tiny Bible detectives or sprinting through the house like they are competing on Survivor Christmas Edition, we want to see it. Share your photos with us. We love watching your families seek Jesus together right in the middle of the beautifully chaotic Christmas season.























Acts 20:35 (NIV)

"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive."

During this holiday season, we all have so much to be thankful for, maybe even more than we realize. Many of you, like me, find it easier to give than to receive. But it is important to accept gifts we did not expect from others. It's easy to give and see the joy in someone's face, but it's harder to receive the gift. Try to understand that they, too, want to see the joy on someone's face. So be gracious and humble and just pass it on.

We had such a great turnout for the Pigeon Forge trip and had so much fun. The fellowship of this trip was the best part for me. Met some new people and shared our love for Jesus with them. Hope to see them again soon. We invited all of them to come visit us.

On December 9th, we will have our annual cookie-baking day. This event is \$25, which covers all ingredients and lunch. The event starts at 9:00 a.m. in the FLC. Make sure to bring containers to carry at least five dozen cookies home with you. Also, we will be having our annual Christmas apron contest. We are looking for the ugliest apron, the most festive apron, and the most unique apron. Prizes will be given. Make sure to sign up at the information desk or on the app. Looking forward to baking with you!

We also have some exciting news! Starting January 2nd, 2026, we will be showing the widely popular Chosen series every Friday at 9:00 a.m. Our Senior Adult Ministry is hosting this weekly event, and it is made available for anyone who desires to attend. Each Friday we will show two episodes. When we complete all the episodes, we will celebrate by having lunch in the FLC. The weekly showing of The Chosen will be held in the chapel. Please enter through the double glass doors.

Have a wonderful and blessed Merry Christmas!













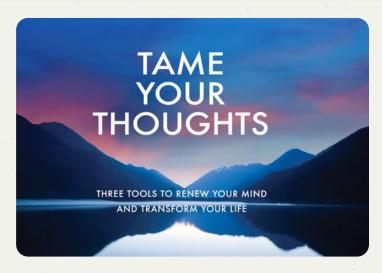


MEN'S MINISTRY

Men Helping Men Be Men

LOC Men's Ministry Reaches New Highs

27 attend Men's Prayer Breakfast & Study 39 attend GRIDIRON Men's Conference 55 attend Men's Steak Dinner Fellowship & Testimony!



PRAYER BREAKFAST

Saturday, Dec. 13, 7:30 in the Conference Room

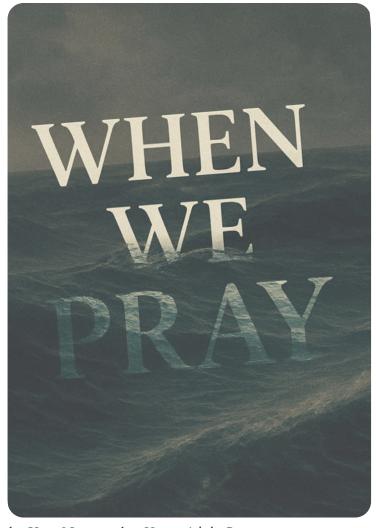
Finding Joy Avoiding Lust

TOP GOLF

Saturday, Jan. 3 10:00 AM-12:30 PM.

Lunch is provided. This is a Free Event.





by Krist Norsworthy, Young Adults Pastor

In April 1912, in the middle of the Atlantic, a massive ship slipped beneath the icy water. As panic spread, the wireless operators kept tapping long after the outcome was certain. Their early messages were technical updates and formal requests for help. As the situation worsened, the words grew shorter and more urgent. The final signals were not calculations but were merely cries for help. The "unsinkable" Titanic had reached the end of itself.

A few months ago, my family and I visited the Titanic Museum in Pigeon Forge. If you've been, you know it's more than just movie props and recovered artifacts behind glass. You step into recreated hallways, touch the freezing water, try to balance on a tilted deck, and even tap out Morse code like the wireless operators did that night. Also, to add a personal touch, when you enter, they hand you a boarding card with the name of a real passenger: your age, your class, and your country of origin. You walk through the entire exhibit, not knowing whether "you" survived until you reach the end.

That experience stays with you. It's one thing to hear that a ship sank; it's another to feel and imagine the fear of that night. It reminded

me that, no matter how strong, wealthy, or confident someone was when they boarded, everyone eventually faced the same reality. At some point, individual human strength and the collective power of engineering reach their threshold.

Once the Titanic's limits were overcome, only one message remained: *Please help us*.

That moment gives us a picture of prayer. We often start where the Titanic ended, at the edge of our own ability. Prayer rises when our plans fall. It forms when our wisdom breaks apart. When we have nothing left but need, we finally see that God is all we have.

Prayer is not performance, and while not every moment will feel like your life is a sinking ship, it is an act of surrender. It is the honest admission that no one is untouchable and that the God who hears is near and full of mercy. Our limits are not barriers to prayer. They are the doorway into it. Through this, God shapes us, builds us, and draws our hearts closer to His.

The How & Why of Prayer

Prayer is central to the Christian life, yet many believers struggle with it. We wonder how to pray, what to say, or if words are being lost in transmission. Sometimes we drift into routine and treat prayer like a duty instead of an invitation. But Scripture shows prayer as personal and accessible. It is where human need meets God's faithfulness. Through the prayers recorded in His Word, we learn how to speak to God and how He responds to His people.

That is the heart behind our series, *When We Pray*. Each Sunday night, our Young Adults will step into a different biblical prayer. Some come from joy, others from grief, humility, or repentance. These prayers come from real people, and through them God reveals His character, His compassion, and His power.

Four Prayers from Scripture

The prayers of the Bible are living examples for us to follow (or avoid). Scripture shows us prayer in its full range: celebratory and sorrowful, confident and confused, overflowing with praise and weighed down by sin. They teach us that we don't have to clean ourselves up before approaching God. God invites us to come as we are and meet Him in the place of prayer.

First, we will visit the Old Testament and Hannah's prayer in 1 Samuel 2:1–10. Hannah's story shows us that prayer is not reserved only for seasons of spiritual strength. She approaches God from a place of anguish, pouring out the pain of a barren heart. Yet her prayer ends in praise. This is a testament to God's willingness to meet His people not only in their requests but also in their vulnerabilities. From Hannah, we

learn that prayer is a space where we bring our honest desires before a God who hears, remembers, and acts.

Our second prayer comes from Psalm 51, where David confronts the devastating reality of his own sin. Instead of hiding or excusing his actions, David approaches God with honest confession: "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love." His prayer teaches us that repentance is not about fear or shame. Repentance is an act of faith because we trust the God who restores. David's sincerity shows us how confession brings cleansing, renewal, and joy as God draws us into closer fellowship with Him.

In Luke 18:9–14, Jesus contrasts two very different approaches to prayer—one we should admire and one we should not. The Pharisee stands confidently and lists his spiritual achievements. The tax collector, standing at a distance, can barely lift his eyes. His request is simple: "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." This shows us a humility that God honors. Prayer can be eloquent and poetic—but God does not respond because we have a silver tongue. He rejects spiritual pride and recognizes the humble words of dependence. It is the honest prayer, not the impressive one, that reaches the heart of God.

The final prayer we will look at is the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6. Jesus teaches His hearers to start with God's relationship to us, to seek His kingdom, and trust Him for provision, forgiveness, and protection. In this passage, which is less a script and more a pattern, Jesus shows us how prayer shapes our priorities. It moves our hearts from self-centeredness to God-centeredness, from anxiety to trust, and from confusion to clarity.

God Meets Us in Prayer

One of the weightiest truths we learn from Scripture is that prayer is *never* one-sided. God does not simply receive your words—He responds and meets you where you are. This conversation deepens as we rely on the Bible to guide us. It helps us to respond not just emotionally but according to God's revealed truth.

Hannah's joy becomes God's opportunity to reveal His might and sovereignty. David's failure becomes the place where God displays His mercy and restorative power. The tax collector's humility becomes the doorway to justification. The disciples' confusion (Luke 11) becomes the moment Jesus steps in to teach them how to draw near to a loving, personal Father.

Prayer is not a ritual we perform to get God's attention. It is an invitation to join what God is already doing. He bends low to hear His children. He enters your story, shapes your heart, and reveals His character through your cries. When you pray, you are not trying to reach a distant or indifferent deity; you are responding to a God who has already drawn near (Acts 17:27).

Prayer Changes Things

Every prayer in this series shows movement. They show spiritual transformation that begins in the heart of the person praying and continues through God's gracious response. Hannah moves from anguish to praise. David moves from sin to restoration. The tax collector moves from guilt to justification. The disciples move from confusion to intimacy.

This movement is not accidental. It is the natural result when a needy heart encounters a faithful God. Prayer changes things not because of the words you say, but because of the God who hears. He reshapes your desires. He strengthens your faith. He humbles your pride. He restores your joy. Prayer is one of the ordinary means of grace; a God-ordained pathway through which He transforms you from the inside out.

Approaching God with Prayer

Like a sinking ship's final call for rescue, prayer begins with the recognition that your strength is not enough. When you reach the end of yourself, God meets you there. What feels like a breaking point often becomes His appointed turning point.

God is not offended by honesty. He welcomes it. He honors it. He transforms His people through it. Whether you come with joy like Hannah, brokenness like David, humility like the tax collector, or dependence like the disciples, God will meet you and shape you. Prayer is not about presenting the best version of yourself. It is about bringing your true self before a God who already knows you and desires to transform you.

We don't pray as outsiders hoping to be heard. We pray as beloved children, adopted in Christ, who has opened the way to the Father (Heb. 10:19–22). By His Spirit, who helps us in our weakness (Rom. 8:26), we cry out with confidence. Prayer turns our hearts toward God, aligns our will with His, and assures us of our true identity. You are children of the Father and heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:15–16).

When you pray, God will meet you. And when God shows up, nothing stays the same.

A DROP FROM THE ALTAR by Sam LoBello

One of my seminary professors used to say to his class while teaching, "This is a drop from the altar." He was communicating to his students that what he was about to say was important and may well appear on the next test. As a result, it would be wise for us to remember it.

As I have journeyed through life God has given me "Drops from the Altar" from time to time. I have tried to remember them and apply them to my life. I will share one with you each month. I hope you find them to be helpful in your journey, as well.

"You have to have that relationship with Christ before you can have Christlikeness in you."

Rick Warren



Thursdays at 7 PM

STRUGGLING WITH ADDICTION?
WE ARE HERE FOR YOU.
WE MEET IN ROOM #201.
COME JOIN US!

"Taste and see the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him."

Psalm 34:8

Support. Instruction. Accountability.

the family answer man

with Dr. Mark Crosby & Dr. David Orges

10 WAYS TO KEEP A NARCISSIST FROM RUINING YOUR HOLIDAY

Taken from Episode 121

Holidays are supposed to be peaceful, joyful, and full of gratitude—but one narcissistic family member can turn a celebration into chaos. Here are ten practical, Biblically grounded strategies to protect your peace and keep the holiday healthy and enjoyable for everyone.

1. Accept Them "As Is."

Don't waste emotional energy trying to change or correct a narcissist. See them the same way you'd buy an "as is" clearance item—you know the condition, so you prepare accordingly.

2. Don't Take Anything Personally.

Whether they shower you with compliments or make backhanded comments about your cooking, remember: narcissists project their own emotions. Their highs and lows are not about you.

3. Don't Give Them Responsibility.

If you assign them to bring the turkey or dessert, expect disappointment. Keep their tasks small—paper plates, napkins, or better yet... nothing.

4. Avoid Confrontation.

Calling them out rarely leads to resolution. Narcissists don't self-reflect well; instead, they'll accuse you of being too sensitive or humorless. Silence protects your sanity.

5. Share Very Little About Yourself.

Your good news becomes their competition. Your bad news becomes their lecture material. Keep conversations light and surface-level.

6. Trust Behavior, Not Promises.

If they offer to help, wonderful—but have a backup plan. Count actions, not words.

7. Don't Expect Praise or Validation.

If you're hoping they'll gush over your cooking or decorations, you'll be disappointed. Validation must come from God and the family who loves you—not from the narcissist.

8. Have an Exit Strategy.

If things escalate, have a plan: step outside, run an errand, sit in another room, or leave early. You have control over your peace.

9. Set Boundaries—Quietly.

Don't announce boundaries ("You can't talk to me like that"). Just walk away, change the subject, or disengage. The strongest boundaries are enforced, not declared.

10. Say "No" Without Explaining.

Narcissists pressure, push, and demand justification. You owe none. "No" is a complete sentence—and it protects your holiday.

A narcissist's ego is like a sinkhole that tries to pull everyone in, but you don't have to lose your joy. With preparation, boundaries, and calm confidence, you can protect your family's celebration from being taken over—and enjoy the holiday you hoped for.





MEMBERS CLASS

STARTS ANEW THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH



HAVE YOU BEEN VISITING LIVE OAK CHURCH?

CONSIDERING BECOMING A MEMBER?

WE HAVE A NEW MEMBERS CLASS JUST FOR YOU!

ROOM 201



8:45AM



Dr. Mark Crosby

Senior Pastor



Dr. David Orges **Executive Pastor**



Trish Graves **Business** Administrator



Rev. Trent Barnett Worship Pastor



Rev. Sam LoBello Director of Adult Ministries



Rev. Stephen Hebert Minister of Pastoral Care



Dr. Nathan Lott Student Pastor



Faith Storck Director of Children's Ministry



Seth Doiga Worship Minister



Madison Cody Children's Minister



Rev. Krist Norsworthy Young Adults Pastor & Communications



Linda Holdman Administrative Assistant



Kim Pamplin Counseling Office Manager



Jim Otken Treasurer



Liz White Office Secretary



Mark Herbst **Facilities** Director























25 TOPICS TO HELP YOU NAVIGATE LIFE!























