



# IT'S COMPLICATED

## Discussion Guide

### “Who Are My People?”

#### Pastor Tammie Floyd

**Starter** Think about your three closest friends. Now, imagine you’re stranded on a deserted island with those friends. Who’s bringing the snacks? Who’s building the shelter? And who’s probably just taking selfies?

#### Sermon Summary

This sermon teaches that God designed us for community and that the people we allow into our “pantry”—our closest circle—shape our faith, decisions, and future. The book of Job and practical wisdom from Scripture challenge us to carefully choose friends who influence us to turn to God, no matter what happens.

#### ACT

As you absorb sermons, read, or participate in group discussion, take notes and make a plan to apply what God’s teaching you.

**A (Action):** Mark important ideas with an “A” to remind you to take action.

**C (Contemplate):** Use a “C” to mark ideas you want to process further.

**T (Transfer/Teach):** If it’s something you need to teach to someone else, note it with a “T.”

#### Read

What do these Scriptures teach you about God’s character? (Read some or all verses together.)

[Colossians 3:12–14](#)

[Job 1:6–12](#)

[James 1:3](#)

[Job 2:11–13](#)

[Ecclesiastes 4:9–10](#)

[Proverbs 27:15](#)

[Job 16:1–5](#)

[Proverbs 13:20](#)

[Proverbs 22:24–25](#)

[Proverbs 27:6](#)

[Proverbs 18:24](#)

#### Discuss

Choose questions to keep the discussion moving. There’s no need to discuss every question.

1. When you think about your “pantry friends,” how are they currently influencing your faith, mindset, and decisions?
2. In what ways have you experienced the difference between transparency and true vulnerability in your friendships?
3. How can you better “care for your people” by simply showing up and being present instead of trying to fix everything?

4. Are there any friendships in your life that may need to shift rooms (from pantry to kitchen or living room), and what would that look like practically?
5. What step can you take this week to intentionally claim or cultivate Christ-centered community rather than waiting for it to happen on its own?

### Go Deeper

1. Study Samuel 18:1–4 (friendship between David and Jonathan). What qualities in Jonathan’s friendship with David challenge the way you show up for your closest friends?
2. Study Luke 5:17–20 (friends of the paralyzed man). Who in your life needs you to actively carry them toward Jesus right now, and what would that require from you?

### Apply

1. Take fifteen minutes to write down your outer circle, inner circle, and core “pantry” friends. Prayerfully ask God if anyone needs to shift rooms and whether you are allowing the right voices to influence your spiritual growth.
2. The next time a friend is hurting, resist the urge to fix or explain. Instead, show up, listen, and offer steady support. Model the kind of care described in Job 2:11–13 before his friends began speaking.
3. If you lack close, faith-centered friendships, initiate one step this week. Join a small group, invite someone to coffee, or reconnect with a trusted friend. Begin building intentional, Christ-centered connection rather than waiting for it to happen.

### Pray

Here are some prayer points:

1. Pray for discernment to make any necessary shifts in your friendships to strengthen your relationship with the Lord.
2. Ask God to teach you to show up with compassion, humility, and truth—to be someone who listens well, speaks life, and lovingly holds others accountable.
3. Ask God to lead you to Christ-centered friendships that encourage spiritual growth and help you take intentional steps toward deeper, healthy connection.

### Leadership Tip

As a small group leader, model intentional friendship by creating a safe space for vulnerability. Lead the way by being willing to share what’s going on in your life. Listen more than you speak. Follow up with group members personally. Encourage accountability, helping each person identify and cultivate their “pantry friends” in a way that strengthens their walk with Christ.