



PASTOR(S)

Pastor(s), now that you are preparing for the RAM series in your church, here are some quick ideas for your sermon preparation and providing necessary resources to staff.

1. Read Chapters 1-3 in the *RAM Series Manual*. This will give you a quick overview of the RAM and also each of the small group tracks. They will provide you with ways you can teach/preach with the RAM about a relationship with God, and relationships within marriage, dating and the church family. These are the primary relationships that each message will address (the first focuses mostly on entering and growing in a relationship with God, while the next five focus mostly on marriage, dating and family of God in every message).

2. In your RAM Series Churchwide Packet you received two books: *How to Avoid Falling in Love with a Jerk* (applies RAM to singles) and *Becoming Better Together* (applies RAM to marrieds). If you have time, **reading both books will give you a wealth of understanding, insights and ideas** about what you want to include in your messages and will expand what is included in the six sermon manuscripts.

3. Read through the six sermons manuscripts. These six messages were not designed to be a word-for-word script, but rather a sample of Scriptures, concepts, outlines and some applications that can help you organize your own messages. The ways that the RAM is applied to dating, marriage and relationships within the family of God will provide you with quick applications that you will be able to expand with God's Word. The biggest challenge may really be deciding what you are NOT going to preach as you sift through these sermons and the two books (#2).*

4. Read Chapter 5. This will prompt ideas about announcements and what you want to do prior to the beginning of the series. Remember, your congregation follows your lead. When you talk about this series with some excitement and encouragement to become involved, then you will see MANY more join in. And if you are going to be involved in one of the two small group tracks, talk about your own involvement—your example will definitely inspire others.

5. Additional important docs to print and read from the Church Leadership Platform

RAM-Pastor-announcements.pdf for example announcements. Your announcements are crucial to your members becoming excited and involved. If you are wanting your members to obtain or order their Discussion Guides and Parent Guides prior to the series, then your involvement in explaining the series and encouraging action are absolutely necessary.

RAM-ChurchLeadership-Task&Timeline.pdf for overview of tasks during the 1-3 months of preparation (the four categories of tasks are 1) Leadership Meetings, 2) Teacher Preparations; 3) Church Communication; and 4) Community Outreach.

6. Give your elementary, MS & HS youth and adult small group leadership access to their platforms. There are four RAM Series platforms: 1) the Church Leadership Platform is for ALL teachers and leadership involved in the RAM series; 2) the Elementary Platform; 3) the MS Platform; 4) the HS Platform; 5) the Small Group leadership platform; 6) the Singles Study videos (stream only) 7) the Couples Study videos (stream only). Upon request, platforms with downloadable videos for the Singles Study and the Couples Study are available for leadership internal use only.



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Send emails to ALL of your leadership that will be involved in the RAM series and provide them with the platform links for their ministries. Give the following directions:

Create an account with your email and the password provided for our church, and then click on the access bar (after logins, you might have to click on My Dashboard to go back to the platform).

*** Please be sure to review and sign the Licensing Agreement and email back to info@LoveThinks.com.**