

Who is The Pastor?

THE PASTOR

Age: 50s–60s | Baltimore, Maryland

The Shepherd. The Counselor. The Quiet Strength.

UNDERSTANDING THE PASTOR

The Pastor is a man of faith—but **do not play him like a stereotype of a preacher.**

He doesn't spend every moment quoting Scripture.

He doesn't need to raise his voice.

He doesn't need to preach at everyone he meets.

His faith is demonstrated by **how he lives, how he treats people and how he responds when things become difficult.**

He's been around long enough to understand the streets, the people in them and the choices young men sometimes make.

He doesn't judge them from a distance.

He meets them where they are.

WHO HE IS

The Pastor is wise, grounded and observant.

He's the type of man who can stand outside cutting someone's hair one minute and have a conversation that changes that person's life the next.

People trust him because he doesn't pretend to be perfect.

He listens.

He notices when someone is hurting.

And he understands that sometimes when people walk through his door, they don't need a sermon.

They need somewhere safe to sit.

That is the Pastor.

HIS PERSONALITY

The Pastor is **compassionate, wise, patient, confident, spiritually grounded, observant, protective and approachable.**

He also has personality.

He can laugh.

He can joke.

He can tease someone.

He can become frustrated.

He can disagree with his wife.

He's a real man—not simply “the preacher character.”

His faith should feel lived-in.

God isn't something he performs. God is part of how he understands life.

THE PASTOR & MARCUS

Marcus gives us an opportunity to understand exactly what kind of Pastor this is.

Marcus is carrying fear, secrets and consequences.

The Pastor doesn't immediately interrogate him.

He recognizes something deeper:

This young man needs help.

Marcus may not know how to ask for it.

He may not even know exactly what kind of help he needs.

The Pastor listens.

He allows Marcus to speak.

And when the Pastor prays with him, the prayer shouldn't feel like a performance for the audience.

It should feel private.

Personal.

Real.

The Pastor isn't praying because **the script needs a religious moment.**

He's praying because **he genuinely believes God is listening.**

That's an important difference for the actor.

HE UNDERSTANDS THE STREETS

Don't play the Pastor as naïve.

He knows where he lives.

He knows what happens around him.

He's seen young men make bad decisions.

He's buried people.

He's watched families fall apart.

He's probably helped people through addiction, violence, prison, poverty, grief and loss.

He's seen darkness before.

His faith doesn't come from never experiencing darkness.

It comes from having experienced enough of it to decide **darkness doesn't get the final word.**

That gives him strength.

HIS HOME

The Pastor's home should feel different from many of the other places in DEEP.

Not because nothing bad can happen there.

But because people feel like they can **exhale** there.

There is warmth.

Conversation.

Food.

Laughter.

Faith.

His house doesn't need to be perfect.

It needs to feel **safe**.

That's important because DEEP is filled with characters who increasingly don't know where safety exists.

The Pastor represents one of those places.

THE PASTOR & HIS WIFE

His wife is not simply "the Pastor's wife."

They're partners.

There's history between them.

They know each other extremely well.

She can challenge him.

She can joke with him.

She can see when something is bothering him before he says anything.

And her faith can be every bit as strong as his.

There should be warmth between them.

The kind of relationship where sometimes a look communicates an entire conversation.

They've been through life together.

HIS FAITH

The Pastor genuinely believes in God.

There should be no question about that.

But don't confuse strong faith with constantly being serious.

He believes prayer matters.

He believes Scripture matters.

He believes people can change.

He believes redemption is real.

And when everyone else sees someone's worst decision—

the Pastor still tries to see the person.

That doesn't mean he excuses evil.

It doesn't mean he's weak.

It means he understands the difference between **condemning someone's actions and giving up on their soul.**

HE ISN'T WEAK

This is extremely important.

Kindness is not weakness.

The Pastor can be compassionate and still have boundaries.

If someone disrespects his home, he'll address it.

If someone threatens his family, the temperature changes.

If someone lies to him, he may already know.

But his first response isn't violence.

His strength comes from being difficult to move emotionally.

Other people can bring chaos into the room.
The Pastor doesn't have to join them in it.

FOR THE ACTOR

DO NOT "PLAY PREACHER."

This may be the most important audition note.

Don't give every line a sermon rhythm.

Don't make every sentence sound profound.

Don't automatically become louder when talking about God.

Don't constantly look toward heaven.

Don't try to convince us you're holy.

Just believe what you're saying.

If the Pastor says:

"God's already there."

He isn't delivering a sermon.

He's telling someone something he believes to be absolutely true.

Say it like truth.

That simplicity will make it much more powerful.

LISTEN

The Pastor is a listener.

This role requires an actor who understands that sometimes the scene belongs to you **while someone else is speaking.**

When Marcus talks—
listen.

Don't wait for your next line.

Try to understand him.

When someone lies—
notice.

When someone is afraid—
notice.

When someone is pretending they're okay—
notice.

The Pastor sees people.

That's one of his gifts.

USE SILENCE

The Pastor doesn't need to fill every moment.

Sometimes someone says something difficult and the Pastor simply sits with it.

A breath.

A look.

Then he responds.

He has learned something younger characters haven't:

You don't always have to answer immediately.

That calm should distinguish him from the chaos surrounding many of the younger characters.

WHEN HE PRAYS

Keep it intimate.

Don't suddenly transform into a different character.

If you're sitting across from a frightened young man, talk to God as naturally as you were just talking to him.

The Pastor isn't trying to impress the person listening.

He's talking to someone he believes is already in the room.

That should guide the performance.

HIS HUMOR

Allow him to be funny.

A man can deeply love God and still have a sense of humor.

In fact, humor can make the Pastor much more believable and likable.

His relationship with his wife is a great place for this.

So are his interactions with younger characters.

He can occasionally cut through an extremely serious moment with something simple that reminds us:

He's human.

WHAT NOT TO DO

Don't make him overly religious in every moment.

Don't turn every conversation into a sermon.

Don't make him weak because he's compassionate.

Don't make him judgmental.

Don't make him perfect.

Don't make him emotionless.

And don't imitate the stereotypical television preacher.

WE WANT A MAN BEFORE WE SEE A PASTOR.

If we believe the man, we'll believe his faith.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

We're looking for an actor with **warmth, wisdom, presence and authenticity.**

Someone who makes us feel comfortable when he enters the scene.

Someone capable of communicating authority without raising his voice.

Someone who can pray on camera without making the moment feel performed.

Someone who can be funny and serious.

Gentle and firm.

Spiritual and completely human.

Most importantly, we need to understand why frightened people would come to this man's house.

We need to feel that this is someone you could trust with the truth.

THE HEART OF THE PASTOR

The Pastor has lived long enough to understand that people can get themselves into some very dark places.

But he believes something many of the characters in DEEP are beginning to forget:

No matter how deep the darkness gets, God is already there.

His job isn't to save everybody himself.

His job is to listen.

To guide.

To protect when he can.

To pray.

And when someone believes they've gone too far to find their way back—

to remind them there is still a way home.

That's the Pastor.

Now show us your version of him.