

# Sermon Discussion Questions

God Is Relational - Taking Off Grave Clothes – Matt Slocum  
26 April 2026  
Sermon Text: John 11:32-44

## AGENDA

- People arrive, talk, snack, and icebreaker – 5 min
- Worship – 5-10 min
- Prayer/Ministry Time – 20-30 min
- Discussion Questions – 35-45 min

## PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME (20-30 min)

Ask for prayer requests. Ask for specific needs of group members.

## MESSAGE INTRODUCTION

In the message, **Taking Off Grave Clothes**, Matt illustrates that taking off grave clothes is not as straight forward as it might seem. In fact, it's downright difficult.

Join Pastor Matt as we look into what grave clothes are, and how we need help getting them off. You can't do it on your own. Our God is Relational, and we need Him and others to help us in life's journeys.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-45 min)

1. Last week you were challenged to choose to do something you don't want to do. To take an intentional step toward spiritual maturity and become relational with someone. Did the Holy Spirit bring someone or some situation to mind that required you to do something you really didn't want to do. Share with your group.

2. What is something that stood out to you from Matt's message this week?

3. Are you sometimes caught up in the idea that your spirituality is just something between you and Jesus and that you two can get it done by yourselves? How does this idea differ from what we have been exploring in the past few weeks about living relationally with others?

4. In Genesis chapter 3, two things are cursed. The serpent. And the "Adam-ah" (earth). Why is this important to know? How does this help us understand how and why we find ourselves wrapped up in grave clothes?

5. We never truly forget our past. We may cognitively forget but our flesh never forgets. And because of the curse of sin and death we find ourselves wrapped up in "grave clothes". Grave clothes were used to wrap people who were dead. Big impactful moments or small little things can wrap us in grave clothes. We all have experiences that wrap us in grave clothes.

Can you think of things from your past that have you wrapped in grave clothes?

## Icebreakers

Pick one of the icebreaker questions below and go around in a circle (starting with the leader) and have everyone answer. (If you have new members or guests have each person introduce themselves.)

1. If you were an animal, what animal would you choose to be? Why?
2. Use **one** word to describe how you feel emotionally. (Emotionally I feel \_\_\_\_.)
3. What is currently on the top of your "to do" list?

6. In the sermon text, Jesus speaks the words and Lazarus is transformed from someone who was completely dead to someone who was completely alive. But what we notice is that when Lazarus emerges from the tomb, he is still wrapped in his grave clothes. Why is this significant? Who does Jesus tell to remove the grave clothes from Lazarus? What are some of the implications of what Jesus tells them to do?

7. In his message, Matt mentioned three things necessary for grave clothes to be removed.

- i) Admit we have grave clothes and seek help.
- ii) Open up.
- iii) Experience something different that you've never experienced before.

Take a bit of time to discuss each of these things and what it means for us as our grave clothes are removed, and also as we help remove the grave clothes from others.

### **APPLICATION**

We all have grave clothes on. Who are you going to open up to and ask for help in removing your grave clothes? Ask the Holy Spirit to bring someone into your life to help you remove your grave clothes. And be there to help someone else remove their grave clothes when they reach out and seek your help. We were never intended to remove our grave clothes on our own; that's not God's plan.

### **COMING UP**

To join a small group or find out more about what is going on, click on the NWC App, the website <https://nwckc.com>, or the New Wine Church Community Group Facebook page. Sermon study questions can also be found in all three locations.

**Baptisms**, 3 May, 10:00 am, Antioch Middle School, 2100 NE 65th St, Gladstone, MO. Register at:

<https://nwckc.com/baptism?sapurl=Lytxdm56L2xiL2V2Lys1NXFxejYzP2JyYW5kaW5nPXRYdWUmZW1iZWQ9dHJ1ZSZyZWNIbnRSb3V0ZT1hcHAud2ViLWFwcC5saWJyYXJ5LmNhbGVuZGFyJnJlY2VudFJvdXRlU2x1Zz0lMkJOY2ZoZmN4>

### **FINAL THOUGHT**

**Beliefs don't change just because we get more information in our heads.  
Beliefs only change through experience.**