

Sermon Discussion Questions

God Is Relational - The Fellowship Of Suffering – Matt Slocum

14 June 2026

Sermon Text: Philippians 3:8-11

AGENDA

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

RELATIONAL TIME (20-30 min)

Have everyone in the group use one word to describe how they feel **physically**, **emotionally**, **mentally**, and **spiritually**. (Physically I feel _____. Emotionally I feel _____. ...)

Have each person expand on one of the ways they are feeling by using the **IFAB** method: “**I** feel _____ **a**bout _____ **b**ecause _____.” (For example, “**I feel frustrated about the sudden change of plans because I rearranged my schedule for a different time.**”)

MESSAGE INTRODUCTION

In the final week of our God Is Relational series, Pastor Matt explores **The Fellowship Of Suffering** in a look at Philippians 3:8-11. In this letter, we see that knowing Christ means not only experiencing the power of His resurrection but also sharing in His sufferings. The truth is suffering reveals what is really inside of us. When pressure comes, when life squeezes us, who do we become? When Jesus was pressed, we saw love. We may be victims of what has happened to us, but we do not have to live with a victim mentality. As followers of the Suffering Servant, we are invited to meet God in the very places we would rather avoid. Because sometimes the deepest healing, the greatest freedom, and the most intimate encounters with God are found on the other side of leaning into the pain instead of running from it. If you are in a season of suffering, this message is going to encourage you and if you are in a season of coping, this message is going to help you find healing.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-45 min)

1. Last week you were asked to complete these sentences. "One lie I want to stop agreeing with is _____. One truth I believe God is speaking over me is _____."

How did you complete them? How can the group pray for you?

2. What is something that stood out to you from the message this week?

3. What is it about the victim mindset that destroys relationships? What are some characteristics or attributes of the victim mindset? Do you see any of these characteristics in yourself?

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. Have you watched any World Cup soccer games? Do you plan to?
2. What is one of your favorite memories of all time? Why?
3. What is one thing you always have on-hand in case of an “emergency”?

4. What is it about a broken and contrite heart that builds and enhances relationships? What are some characteristics or attributes of a broken and contrite heart that builds and enhances relationships? Do you see any of these characteristics in yourself?

5. People tend to run from suffering. Why do you think that is? How does our attitude toward suffering stand in contrast to that of Jesus? (Mark 14:60-61).

APPLICATION

Has the Holy Spirit brought something to mind where you need to repent? (Maybe not repent of some terrible sin in your life, but repent for not having a broken and contrite heart?) Is the Holy Spirit trying to break you? Would you be willing to enter into suffering so the Holy Spirit can bring healing? Maybe instead of running from suffering, you are being called to sit in it.

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.

Kids Camp, 10-2, 8-10 July. Kids ages 4 through outgoing 5th Graders are invited to attend Kids Camp this summer at PowerPlay. Kids will learn about God while having fun with their friends. Camp cost is \$75 and includes a T-shirt, lunch, and an hour of play each day.

Register at: <https://subsplash.com/newwinechurch/lb/ev/+7cr4cdt>

Volunteer at: <https://subsplash.com/newwinechurch/lb/ev/+mffwbx9>

The PRESS Summer Youth Retreat, 21-24 July, BOLD conference in KC. Retreat cost is \$350 and is for incoming 6th graders - graduating 12th graders welcome! BOLD is a powerful gathering of students from across the nation who are passionate about pursuing God. Over four days, students will experience passionate worship, impactful messages, powerful moments of prayer, and opportunities to grow deeper in their faith alongside thousands of other young people.

Register at: <https://subsplash.com/newwinechurch/lb/ev/+sck84cc>

The Call - Men's Breakfast, 25 July, 9:00-11:00, New Wine Church building, 7102 N. Prospect Ave Gladstone, MO. All men are invited to The Call – Men's Breakfast, a special gathering for men to connect, grow, and be refreshed. There will be powerful ministry, heartfelt prayer, and an inspiring devotion to encourage you in your walk. And don't worry about breakfast—food will be provided, so come hungry and ready for fellowship. Don't miss this opportunity to recharge and strengthen your faith alongside other men! See you there!

FINAL THOUGHT

The victim mentality is the ultimate killer of relationships.