

Sermon Discussion Questions

8th Day People: Lowering Your Guard – Matt Slocum
28 January 2024
Sermon Text: Ephesians 3:11-21

AGENDA

- People arrive, talk, snack, and icebreaker – 5 min
- Worship – 5-10 min
- Prayer/Ministry Time – 20 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

This week Matt continues the sermon series called **8th Day People**. In his message called, Lowering Your Guard, Matt explores the idea that most of us have raised our guard which keeps us from experiencing the fullness of God in our lives. Our wounds do not keep us from the love of God. It is the raising of our guard, because of our wounds, that keeps us from experiencing the shalom of God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-45 min)

1. What stuck out to you most during this week's message?
2. Discuss the biblical picture: "The ideal state for human beings is to be in loving union with God, working in a stable garden that functions as a mountain fortress where all of humanity can securely live."
3. What "guard" can you identify that you regularly put up to protect against pain, that may be hindering an encounter with God's love?
4. Ask the Lord to show you ways to lower those guards when you come into his presence. Share any insights with the group.

APPLICATION

Continue to think this week about some of the guards you have raised up in your life? Are you willing to lower those guards in order to really experience God? Are you willing to lower your guards so God can work and bring you into His shalom? Consider sharing with your group next week.

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. Will you be watching to see what Punxsutawney Phil (the weather predicting groundhog) has to say about the end of winter?
2. What is one thing that consumes a lot of your life? Is it something you can remove?
3. What is your favorite type of pasta dish?

COMING UP

To join a small group or find out more about what is going on at NWC, go to <https://nwckc.com> or the New Wine Church Community Group Facebook page. Study materials are also available on the website or Facebook page.

Baby Dedications, 11 February at 9:00 and 11:00 am, Oak Park High School, 825 NE 79th Terrace, Kansas City, MO.

FINAL THOUGHT

We need to be connected to the heart of the Father.