

Sermon Discussion Questions

God Is Relational - Comfort And Connection – Matt Slocum

10 May 2026

Sermon Text: Philippians 4:19-20

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

Matt continues this week with our **God Is Relational** series in his message, **Comfort And Connection**. In this message we look at how God designed us to find healing, strength, and life through relationship - first with Him, and then with one another. As we dive into this message, the question for us is - **“What do you need?”** Join in as we continue learning what it means to be fully known, fully loved, and deeply connected.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-45 min)

1. Last week you were asked to reflect and see if you find yourself in a prison of torment because you’ve been unwilling to forgive someone. Did the Holy Spirit reveal any unforgiveness in your life? Did you act on what the Holy Spirit revealed? Were you able to offer forgiveness and blessing and experience release from your prison? Share with your group.
2. Did something really resonate with you from the message this week?
3. The primary way the Holy Spirit meets our needs is through relationships with other people. How does this show us the relational nature of God? How does being relational help us meet our critical need for comfort and connection?
4. Comfort and connection are two sides of the same coin. You won’t find comfort without connection and you won’t find deep connection unless you are comfortable. How do we balance these needs? Why can’t we just focus on one need?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-4. Do you think Paul is trying to get us to take notice of something here in these verses? What is it?

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. Use one word to describe how you feel physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. (Physically I feel _____. Emotionally I feel _____. ...)
2. If your pet was to give you a name, what would they call you?
3. Do you think you could be a contestant on a show like Fear Factor? If so, how do you think you’d fare?

6. During his message, Matt mentioned **10 Needs For Connection**. Take a few moments to discuss each of these needs and the verse associated with each. (1. Acceptance - Rom 15:7, 2. Affection - Mark 10:16, 3. Appreciation - 1 Cor 11:2, 4. Approval - Eph 4:29, 5. Attention - 1 Cor 12:25, 6. Consolation - Rom 12:15b, 7. Encouragement - 1 Thes 5:11, 8. Respect - Rom 12:10, 9. Security/Peace - Rom 12:16, 10. Support - Gal 6:2)

7. Matt talked about two different types of people: Guarded and Grasping. Where do you tend to find yourself? What are some of the reasons which tend to make you more guarded or more grasping? How does it affect your ability to enter into deep, meaningful relationships with others in the church? What would it take for you to get better? Can you think of any positive steps you could take?

APPLICATION

This week, take some time and ponder the question, “What do you need?” Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you into relationships where you can let down your guard or quit grasping and become the **grounded** person God wants you to be. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you into life-giving relationships.

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.

Heart Of The House, 5 and 12 May, 6:30-8:30 pm, New Wine Church Building, 7102 N. Prospect Ave, Gladstone, MO. This 2-week class covers our Four Pillars and the core values we hold dear. Dinner is provided on both nights. Register at: <https://subsplash.com/newwinechurch/lb/ev/+7dkrsn5>

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>

FINAL THOUGHT

**The guarded hides behind privacy, the grasping hides behind performance.
But God wants to lead both toward presence - where we are
fully known and fully loved.**