

# Sermon Discussion Questions

God Is Relational - The Holy Spirit In You – Matt Slocum  
24 May 2026  
Sermon Text: Ephesians 2:19-23

## 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* **a**bout *the sudden change of plans* **b**ecause *I rearranged my schedule for a different time.*”)

## MESSAGE INTRODUCTION

What if the most profound relationship you will ever experience isn't found across a room, but inside your own chest? In this powerful continuation of the God Is Relational series, Pastor Matt Slocum unpacks a truth that is easy to memorize but beautifully disruptive to live out in his message, **The Holy Spirit In You**.

Too often, we relegate the Holy Spirit to an abstract theological concept, a mystical force, or a silent partner in our faith. But if God is inherently relational, then the indwelling of the Spirit is the ultimate expression of intimate, personal connection. This message is a compelling invitation to move past a distant, transactional religion and step into a living, breathing internal presence that radically transforms your identity, your struggles, and the way you relate to the world around you. Let's dive in and find out more.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-45 min)

1. Last week you were to ask yourself the question, “How is your soul?”. How did you respond to the question taking into account how you were feeling physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. Did you also make plans to meet up with someone you don't know very well so you can get to know them better and move into a deeper relationship with them? Did you ask them the same question, “How is your soul?” Tell your group how things went.
2. What is something that resonated with you from Matt's message this week?
3. All throughout the Old Testament, the presence of God is represented by a tree on a mountain.

Eden – a mountain with rivers flow out of it with the tree of life in the middle.

Noah – the ark comes to rest on the mountain and the doves bring an olive branch.

Abraham – the sacrifice of Isaac on a mountain with a ram caught in the thicket.

Moses – Moses encounters a burning tree on a mountain. On the mountain, Moses is instructed to build what he sees on the mountain down there.

## 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're a golfer, do you find playing relaxing or frustrating? Why?
2. Who is one of your oldest and dearest friends? When and how did you become friends?
3. What is something from your current job you find fun and brings you enjoyment?

How do these images shape our understanding of where the presence of God resides? Who was able to climb the mountain or enter into the tabernacle or temple and encounter God's presence? What does it say about the relational nature of God that people no longer had to go "up" but could now go "in" to experience the presence of God?

4. When Jesus arrives, He gives us a very different picture of where the presence of God resides (John 2:19-21). How does this differ from the Old Testament image? Again, how does this show us more about the relational nature of God?

5. How does the day of Pentecost take the relational nature of God to the next level? How has our understanding of the presence of God changed from the Old Testament to the coming of the Holy Spirit? (1 Corinthians 6:19)

6. We can always trust the Holy Spirit. While we may not always be able to trust people, we can always trust the Holy Spirit living in them. How difficult is it for us to put this into practice? What do we need to do in order to separate trusting people versus trusting the Holy Spirit?

### **APPLICATION**

What are some of the blocks and barriers in your life that need to be broken down and broken apart so the Holy Spirit can flow through you? Take some time this week and ask the Holy Spirit to bring anything to mind that needs to "go" so you can live a life of the Holy Spirit working in and through you.

### **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.

**Child Dedications**, 14 June, 10:00 am, Antioch Middle School, 2100 NE 65th St, Gladstone, MO.

Register at: <https://subsplash.com/newwinechurch/lb/ev/+b3dwdjd>

**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**

**I can trust the Holy Spirit no matter what.**