

# Sermon Discussion Questions

God Is Relational – Matt Slocum  
19 April 2026  
Sermon Text: John 17:20-26

## 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

This week in Matt's message, **God Is Relational**, we find out that God is so much more than sovereign. He is relational. That's how it's been from the very beginning. His desire is for us to live and experience life as relational beings. Both with Him and with each other. We live in a time when we are more disconnected than ever and that's not what God wants for us. Let's get going and see what happens when we dive into living as relational beings.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-45 min)

1. Last week you were asked to spend some time thinking about how well you live in love toward others. How well do you think you are doing? Are you living in love with others? Even those who are difficult to love? Did the Holy Spirit show you places where maybe you need to improve and love people like Jesus loves them. Share with your group any struggles you have living in this kind of love.

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

3. As we get going, let's apply some deductive reasoning. Deductive reasoning consists of a major premise (a general principle), a minor premise (a specific application), and a conclusion.

God is relational. (General Principle)

We are to be Christ-like. (Specific Application)

We are to be relational. (Conclusion)

How do we see our deductive reasoning borne out in scripture? What are some examples which describe God as relational? What examples tell us we are to be Christ-like? Where do we see examples of the conclusion that we are to be relational?

4. What does it mean to worship, serve, and believe in a God who is primarily relational? How do you think that should present itself in practical ways in our lives?

## 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. How do you react to storm warnings? Are you a "take shelter" or "storm chaser" type of person?

2. Use **one** word to describe how you feel mentally. (Mentally I feel \_\_\_\_ .)

3. What activity brings peace and calm into your life? When is the last time you engaged in that activity?

5. Since God is relational, Matt highlighted three things we should recognized about this type of life.
- i) God's Spirit moves in relationship.
  - ii) The devil primarily attacks relationships.
  - iii) Spiritual maturity is about relationships.

Spend some time thinking and talking about these three points. Where do you notice these points referenced in the Bible? What are some personal examples of how you've seen this in your own life?

6. It is often thought, believed, and taught that spiritual maturity is achieved through gaining more knowledge. Is this true or not? What does the Bible say about this idea of spiritual maturity?

What do you think about the idea that we grow in spiritual maturity by following Jesus? The more we follow Him, the more like Him we become. In becoming more like Him, we become more relational. The more relational we become, the more we grow in spiritual maturity.

7. The key to spiritual maturity is to do what you don't want to do. It's not about dealing with things that just happen to us but instead reflects something we choose to do. It's intentional. And it's costly. It will cost you everything. So, the question before us is, what are we willing to do to grow in spiritual maturity?

## **APPLICATION**

This week, choose to do something you don't want to do. Take an intentional step toward spiritual maturity and become relational with someone this week. Ask for the Holy Spirit to bring someone or some situation to mind that requires you to do something you really don't want to do. Step out and become relational with someone. This might require you to talk, listen, take responsibility, open up, or be vulnerable. Be intentional. Live relational.

## **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=Lytxdm56L2xiL2V2Lys1NXFxejYzP2JyYW5kaW5nPXRYdWUmZW1iZWQ9dHJ1ZSZyZWNIbnRSb3V0ZT1hcHAud2ViLWFwcC5saWJyYXJ5LmNhbGVuZGFyJnJlY2VudFJvdXRlU2x1Zz0lMkY2ZmN4>

A class for those wishing to be baptized will be held immediately after the service on 26 April.

## **FINAL THOUGHT**

**The fundamental thing about God is that He is relational.**