

Sermon Discussion Questions

While We Look – Grant Braaten

20 July 2025

Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 4:1-12

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

We long to see the glory of God. It's powerful when God moves through miracles and signs and wonders. We love to experience God this way. But what happens when God chooses to reveal His glory through our suffering. This week in his message entitled **While We Look**, Pastor Grant leads us into 2 Corinthians 4 where we see that God's glory isn't always found in the miracles alone, but sometimes it's found in the middle of suffering.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-45 min)

1. Last week you were asked to think about how you present yourself before God. Did you see yourself standing there with hands that were closed (fists clenched tightly together), hands that were partially open, or hands that were fully open? How does your posture effect your ability to serve in your role as a priest unto God?
2. What is something that really stuck with you this week from Grant's message?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 4 together. Which parts of this passage jumped out to you the most? Which parts are the toughest to accept? Which parts are the most encouraging?
4. 2 Corinthians 4 mentions that "the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelieving." How does understanding this spiritual blindness impact how you approach sharing the gospel with others? Praying for them?
5. Paul states that we have "this treasure in earthen vessels." In what ways has your personal weakness or frailty allowed God's "surpassing greatness of power" to be more evident in your life? Where has He used you despite your weakness?

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. What is your favorite thing to BBQ or grill?
2. Have you started back to school shopping yet?
3. What is something on your list you still want to get done this summer?

6. On Sunday, we were encouraged to "not waste your suffering". What do you believe is the difference between suffering that produces glory and suffering that leads to bitterness or despair?

7. How do you hold in both hands the belief in healing, miracles, deliverance, etc., and the redemptive value suffering can have?

APPLICATION

Think about a time when you went through a season of suffering. Can you recall how you felt during the suffering? What about how you felt on the other side of the suffering? How can you use that experience to help you weather other storms you will undoubtedly face?

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.

Healing Through Encounter, 25 July, 7:00pm. New Wine Church building, 7102 N. Prospect Ave, Gladstone, MO. Childcare available for 5 years and younger.

Baptisms, 10 August, 9:00 and 11:00am. Oak Park High School, 825 NE 79th Terrace, Kansas City, MO. A short class for those wishing to be baptized will be held between services on 3 August in the school library.

Please register at:

<https://nwckc.com/baptism?sapurl=Lytxdm56L2xiL2V2Lys4cDY2bWY4P2JyYW5kaW5nPXRYdWUmZW1iZWQ9dHJ1ZSZyZWNIbnRSb3V0ZT1hcHAud2ViLWFwcC5saWJyYXJ5LmNhbGVuZGFyJnJlY2VudFJvdXRlU2x1Zz0lMkJ0Y2ZoZmN4>

Spiritual Gifts. This six-week class begins on 14 August and will meet on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30pm at the New Wine Church building, 7102 N. Prospect Ave, Gladstone, MO. This class will examine what the Word of God actually says about spiritual gifts, attempt to remove confusion, and give room for personal reflection, growth, and activation. Whether you're a seasoned veteran or a newbie to the gifts, there's edification for all in this multidimensional teaching.

Please register at: <https://subsplash.com/newwinechurch/lb/ev/+5jb864z>

FINAL THOUGHT

God's glory isn't just in the miracle, sometimes it's in the middle of the mess.