Sermon Discussion Questions

Children Of Light - Illumination And Invitation – Matt Slocum
11 October 2026
Sermon Text: John 1:9-18

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 **p**hysically, **e**motionally, **m**entally, and **s**piritually (PEMS). (Physically I feel __. Emotionally I feel ___. ...)

Have each person expand on one of the ways they are feeling by using the **IFAB** method: "**I f**eel _____ **a**bout _____ **b**ecause _____." (For example, "**I feel** *frustrated* **about** *the sudden change of plans* **because** *I rearranged my schedule for a different time.*")

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. Do you carve pumpkins? Do you carve scary or funny faces?

2. What is one of your fondest memories from your childhood?

3. What is something about you that most people wouldn't know?

MESSAGE INTRODUCTION
What if the things we're hiding are the very things God is inviting us to bring into the light? From the beginning, when Adam and Eve hid in the garden, we've had a tendency to cover up the parts of ourselves we don't want anyone to see. Our fears. Our insecurities. Our struggles. Sometimes we're so good at hiding that we don't even recognize what's beneath the surface. But Jesus came as the Light of the World, inviting us to live differently. In this week's message, **Illumination and Invitation**, Matt talks about what it really means to live as children of light. Not just believing in Jesus but allowing His light to reach every part of our lives. Let's get going and dive into the message.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-45 min)
1. Last week you were asked to spend some time and see if there are areas of your life where you are still living in darkness. Areas of your life where you are flying upside down. Did you ask the Holy Spirit to bring illumination into your life so you see the truth and are able to get things "righted" and back on track? Remember this, you can't fix yourself or get yourself "right side up". Did you ask God to do for you what you can't do yourself.

2. What is something that stood out to you from the message this week?

3. God created us to be children of light. We flourish in the light. But as we see in Genesis chapter 3, after Adam and Eve disobey God, the move into the shadows and hide. They no longer want to be in the light. They try to clothe themselves but don't do a very good job at it. In a great act of mercy and grace, God clothes them in skins. How do skins show the effects of sin? What had to happen for there to be skins in order to clothe them? What do we learn here about sin, mercy and grace, and God?

4. In Matthew 17, Jesus reveals himself as He really is and His clothing becomes white as light. John points us to who Jesus really is. We are to understand that it's all about what we are clothed in. Spend a few moments as a group and talk about why it matters what we're clothed in.

5. To step into the light and live in the light is a choice. A choice to be fully known. Or, we can keep parts of our life in the darkness and choose to keep ourselves hidden from God. Why is it that we choose to live in darkness? What does that say about our trust in God?

6. During his message, Matt mentioned three ways we hide: Superhero, Hidden, and Created-Self. Spend a few moments and talk about the ways we keep ourselves hidden from the light. Are there places you see yourself trying to hide things from God and others? How do the ways we hide keep ourselves from being seen and known?

7. How are we able to bring things into the light? What happens when we do so? How can you be a person someone can reach out to? What would that look like?

APPLICATION

What are you hiding today? What do you have hidden away in the dark? Will you build a relationship with someone who can help you step into the light and quit hiding? Pray for the Holy Spirit to give you the strength and the courage to step into the light.

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.

HOME Church. Upcoming dates: 21 October and 18 November. HOME Church is a vibrant, mid-sized community of 30 to 50 people meeting on the third Wednesday of each month locally, right where you live. It's not a replacement for Sunday services or small groups, but a unique space where deep, authentic relationships grow organically through life-giving connections, spiritual encouragement, and unity. Rooted in Jesus' mission of "on earth as it is in heaven," Home Church pursues harmony to strengthen our gospel witness, grows naturally as an interconnected body, engages missionally by serving local communities, and fosters encouragement through practical acts of care. These home churches become living expressions of heaven-on-earth communities equipped by the Holy Spirit to restore brokenness and spread God's kingdom. Come be a part of what God is doing as we seek to be fully known, fully loved, and fully equipped to impact our city. Go to https://nwckc.com/home-church for more information.

Fall Festival. 17 October, 11:00-2:00. Antioch Middle School, 2100 NE 65th St, Gladstone, MO 64118.

Sign up to volunteer at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeIsfrgumGQv6VrCWS-X5kNaR2r4jW4sG-KESeGKdAZWMJOyA/viewform

FINAL THOUGHT

Darkness is supposed to tremble at the light.
If there is darkness in our life, it won't tremble.