

Sermon Discussion Questions

Children Of Light - Jesus Is The Light – Matt Slocum

4 October 2026

Sermon Text: John 1:1-18

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** feel _____ **a**bout _____ **b**ecause _____.” (For example, “**I feel frustrated about the sudden change of plans because I rearranged my schedule for a different time.**”)

MESSAGE INTRODUCTION

Have you ever felt like things in your life were going just fine, only for you to find out that you’ve been flying upside down and in the dark the whole time? As we begin a new sermon series called, **Children Of Light**, we are going to be looking at the Gospel of John and how the entire book shows us that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and is the true light. The only one who can illuminate the darkness all around us and help us get “right side up” and moving in the right direction. Let’s get going and dive into Matt’s message this week, **Jesus Is The Light**.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-45 min)

1. Last week you were asked to spend some time and see how God is calling you into Optimal Obedience. Is there something specific He is telling you to do? Is there something preventing you from doing it? What is it? Share with your group and have them pray with you to have the faith to step into obedience to God. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to become a person of Optimal Obedience, and then do it.
2. What is something that stood out to you from the message this week?
3. Have you ever felt like things in your life were going just fine, only for you to find out that you’ve been flying upside down and in the dark the whole time? How did you find out? Did you crash or did something happen to let you know things weren’t going like you thought they were? What was it?
4. The beginning John’s gospel starts like this, “In the beginning ...”. These words would have been very familiar to the Jewish people as they were the very same words from the very first book of the Hebrew scriptures in Genesis 1. John opened his book with a riddle and from this riddle, the readers were to understand

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 was your favorite Halloween costume as a kid?
2. What superhero ability would you like to have?
3. What is something you’d like to learn how to do?

exactly who Jesus was. What are some elements of this riddle we see from our text today? (John 1:1-18). Why do you think John used this approach to explain who Jesus was?

5. When it comes to deep things in our humanity, we are trying to make sense of our worth. Our failures. Our purpose. As we try to make sense of it all, we tend to break it down into two systems:

1. The Justice System - You get what you deserve.
2. The Mercy System - You don't get what you deserve.

What are the attributes of each system and how do they both fall short?

Spend a few moments and think about these statements: "If the universe operates by the justice system, humans are gone." "If the universe operates on the mercy system, there are no humans left because they destroy each other."

6. If neither of the systems listed above work, what is left? What system does God use to perfectly bring justice and mercy together? How is this different? What does that mean for us?

7. Do you ever find yourself living in "What If" scenarios? What is the problem when we live that way? What does it end up saying about our trust in God?

APPLICATION

Spend some time this week 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. 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". Ask God to do for you what you can't do yourself.

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.

The Call - Men's Retreat, 9-10 October, Lake Maurer Retreat Center, Excelsior Springs, MO. The retreat begins Friday, October 9 at 3 PM and ends Saturday, October 10 at 3 PM, with guest speaker Ivan Freitas.

For more details and registration: <https://subsplash.com/newwinechurch/lb/ev/+xjypw8p>

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

Grace is where justice and mercy perfectly meet.