

Sermon Discussion Questions

Optimal Obedience – Kim May

27 September 2026

Sermon Text: Acts 8:26-38

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

MESSAGE INTRODUCTION

Why is obedience so difficult? What might we be missing out on when we are not obedient? This week in his message, **Optimal Obedience**, Pastor Kim looks at how obedience, even when we don’t have a lot of information, opens up the next opportunity. Philip was given a simple command to follow a road. Stepping out in faith opened up the opportunity to share the Gospel with the Ethiopian eunuch. Let’s get going and see how God calls us into Optimal Obedience.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-45 min)

1. Last week you were asked to let the Holy Spirit bring to the forefront of your mind any grave clothes that may be binding you and keeping you from being free. You were also asked to have the Holy Spirit to bring someone into your life who can help unwrap the grave clothes you are wearing and assist in your freedom to be who God has called you to be. Are you willing to risk connection? Are you ready to practice pausing and to be vulnerable? Share with your group.
2. What is something that stood out to you from the message this week?
3. Optimal Obedience is an uncompromising heart willing to do anything for God? What are some examples of this in the Bible? Would you be willing to step out in obedience with little or no information from God? What might that look like in our life?
4. In his message Pastor Kim listed three things that mark Optimal Obedience:
 - a) Optimal Obedience is obedience because God said so.
 - b) Optimal Obedience positions us for the next step.
 - c) Optimal Obedience requires effort.

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 enjoy a good firepit or bonfire?
2. What/where is your favorite Fall Festival? What makes it fun?
3. What is your favorite thing about Fall?

Spend some time as a group talking about these marks of Optimal Obedience. How can we learn this with examples from the Bible? Have you experienced this to be true in your own life? Share with your group.

5. Are there times when you trust Jesus to be your Savior, but not your Lord? What might it look like in your life if you trusted Him as both? How have you struggled with this in your own life?

APPLICATION

The water doesn't flow until the faucet is turned on. Spend some time this week 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.

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 of 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

Faith + Effort = Optimal Obedience.