



Living by Faith Part 11—What Are You Wearing?

Pastor Jude Fouquier

01.30.2022

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

Our life today is like a wave crashing on the beach of eternity—here today, gone tomorrow. There is an eternity that lies before us, and we need a church motivated by what is to come and what God wants to do, not right now.

People matter most because they are the only things that will come with us into eternity.

[Romans 13:11-14, NLT]

11 This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. 12 The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes,

and put on the shining armor of right living. 13 Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see. Don't participate in the darkness of wild parties and drunkenness, or in sexual promiscuity and immoral living, or in quarreling and jealousy. 14 Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. And don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires."

Two Things that Happen When You Turn Off the Light

- 1. The darkness distorts.**
- 2. You remove your vision.**

When you turn off the lights, your view of reality is distorted. Living in darkness leads to distorted truth and making decisions based on your feelings about the world around you.

Even though we live in a time of darkness, you can't stop the sun from rising!

It's become a badge of honor to see how well we argue online.

[Matthew 25:1-13, ESV]

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7 Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 But the

wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ 10 And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. 11 Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ 12 But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ 13 Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

Four Things Needed to Clothe Yourself in the Presence of God

1. Wake up.

You were not created to be a “dead man walking.” You were created to have the Spirit of the Living God inside of you.

[Romans 8:11, ESV]

11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

2. Know what time it is.

We can’t live as though we have forever in front of us. God has called us to go somewhere.

There are things in your life that might seem innocent, but they are lulling you to sleep.

[Ephesians 5:13, ESV]

13 But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, 14 for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

3. Dress for where you are going not where you are at.

You get dressed in private, but you will wear your clothes in public. The decisions you make in private will determine what you look like in public.

[2 Corinthians 3:18, ESV]

“18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”

We do not need a Church that is good at acting like the church. God wants to bring life into your spirit everyday and then it comes out.

4. Make it a daily habit. (Wait upon the Lord.)

[Romans 6:4, ESV]

4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

[Isaiah 40:31, ESV]

31...but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

God wants to give you a strength that goes beyond your feelings.

Vision comes in the waiting.

[1 Peter 2:9, ESV]

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

FOR MONDAY—

1. Pray and ask God to speak to you about the times we are living in as humanity.
2. Turn to the Word for direction on behaviors or decisions for you and your family.
3. Choose to stand up for what you are for versus against.

TALK IT THROUGH

1. Do you know anyone who is afraid of the dark now or when they were younger? What caused that fear, and how did they overcome it?
2. “When there is no light, there is no vision.” What happens in our bodies and minds when our view of reality is distorted?
3. According to Romans 13:11-14, why is there urgency in the way we live? How is it still possible to walk in darkness as a believer? How does our current culture reflect what Romans describes in their context?
4. How do we shake out of our everyday routines and focus on what lies ahead? How can we know what is ahead?
5. How do we walk in the light? What does it take to live beyond your feelings and see beyond your circumstances?

6. When have you witnessed reckless living impact the trajectory of an individual, a family, or a larger group? Was there a point of turnaround and redemption?
7. Why do you think our culture celebrates distorted reality and attributes reckless living as “health”?
8. Why do you think there is so much sexual brokenness in the world around us? Appropriately, what is the beauty of sex that God intended for it to be?
9. What will distinguish the people of God from the world? What does it look like to clothe yourself in the presence of God?
10. Are there areas in your life that might not be sin but might be lulling you to sleep?
11. How can we be more intentional about spending time with Jesus in the secret place?
12. How is God calling you to move His Kingdom forward?