



# Outward Group Discussion Guide

April 5, 2026 (Salem)

## SUMMARY

This Easter sermon challenges the common misconception that Christianity is primarily about receiving God's blessings rather than experiencing God Himself. Drawing from the book of Exodus, the pastor illustrates how Moses valued God's presence above the Promised Land itself, declaring he would rather have eternity in a desert with God than life in abundance without Him. The message confronts our tendency to seek God's gifts—whether through social media validation, political solutions, relationships, or career success—while neglecting genuine relationship with God. The sermon emphasizes that Jesus Christ lost the presence of His Father on the cross so that we could gain it, and that the resurrection proves everything Jesus said is true. True Christianity is not about using God to get what we want, but about desiring His presence above all else, which alone brings the rest our souls desperately need.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Moses said he would rather have eternity in a desert with God than the promised land without Him. What does this reveal about the nature of true relationship with God versus merely seeking His blessings?
2. How might our pursuit of validation through social media, politics, or career success actually be a misdirected longing for the presence of God?
3. The sermon suggests that many who call themselves Christians may only want what God gives rather than God Himself. How can we honestly examine our own motivations for following Christ?
4. What does it mean that Jesus lost the presence of His Father on the cross so that we could gain it, and how should this truth shape our gratitude and worship?
5. If you could have heaven with everything you ever wanted but Christ was not there, would you be satisfied? Why does your answer matter?
6. How do the idols we create in our lives—whether relationships, achievements, or

platforms—ultimately fail to provide the rest and peace that only God's presence can give?

7. The resurrection of Jesus is presented as proof that everything He said is true. How does the historical reality of the resurrection change the way we should respond to Christ's claims?
8. What does it look like practically to desire God's presence more than His gifts in your daily life, relationships, and decision-making?
9. Jesus promises to never leave or forsake those who are His. How does this unchanging presence contrast with the temporary nature of other sources of security and identity?
10. Augustine said our hearts are restless until they find their rest in God. Where have you been seeking rest for your soul, and how might God be inviting you to find it in His presence instead?