



Outward Group Discussion Guide

April 12, 2026 (Silverton)

SUMMARY

This sermon explores the profound revelation of God's character as proclaimed to Moses in Exodus 34:6-7, often called the most quoted passage in Scripture. The pastor challenges the congregation to move beyond comfortable, controllable versions of God—whether an overly gracious "grandfather" figure or a harsh judge—to embrace the full tension of who God truly is. God is simultaneously merciful, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, AND a God who will by no means clear the guilty. This seemingly impossible tension finds its resolution in Jesus Christ, who became sin on the cross so that believers might become the righteousness of God. The sermon calls listeners to genuinely desire to see God as He truly is, not as a deity of their own making, and to understand the depth of love demonstrated when Christ took the judgment we deserved.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you could describe yourself in one sentence, what would it be, and how does that compare to how God might describe you?
2. Moses asked God to show him His glory despite already experiencing God's presence. What is the difference between experiencing God's presence and truly seeing who He is?
3. When faced with the story of the thief on the cross receiving salvation in his final moments, do you feel joy at God's grace or frustration at the apparent lack of justice? What does your reaction reveal about which aspect of God you emphasize?
4. How have you created a golden calf version of God that you can control, either as a grandfather who overlooks sin or as a judge you can satisfy through your own good works?
5. Why do we struggle with the tension of God being both perfectly just and perfectly merciful, and what does our discomfort with this tension reveal about our understanding of holiness?

6. In what ways do we prefer a God we can understand over the infinite, unknowable God who reveals Himself in Scripture?
7. How does understanding that Jesus became sin for us change the way you view both God's justice and His mercy?
8. What would it look like in your daily life if you truly wanted to see God as He is rather than as you've made Him to be?
9. The Israelites were quick to grumble while God was slow to anger. How does this pattern show up in your own relationship with God, and what does it reveal about His character?
10. If heaven without God's presence is not truly heaven, as Moses suggested, how does that challenge the way you think about salvation and what you're actually seeking in your faith?