



Outward Group Discussion Guide

April 3, 2026

SUMMARY

This Good Friday sermon explores the profound question of why Jesus had to die by examining the story of the golden calf in Exodus 32. The pastor draws parallels between Moses as a mediator for Israel and Jesus as our ultimate mediator and sacrifice. The message emphasizes that humanity's fundamental problem is worshiping created things rather than the Creator, breaking God's commandments and deserving His righteous wrath. While Moses attempted to be a substitute for Israel's sin, God rejected this because Moses himself was a sinner. Only Jesus, the perfect and sinless Son of God, could serve as both our mediator and substitute sacrifice. The sermon culminates in the truth that Jesus' brutal death on the cross was necessary because no one else was worthy to atone for our sins.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In what ways do we create modern-day golden calves by worshiping the gifts God has given us rather than God himself?
2. How does Moses' willingness to be blotted out for his people's sin help us understand the depth of Christ's sacrifice on the cross?
3. Why do you think God required Moses to advocate for the people rather than simply forgiving them outright? What does this teach us about intercession?
4. The sermon states that without repentance there is no forgiveness of sins. How does this truth challenge contemporary views of God's grace and mercy?
5. What does it reveal about human nature that the Israelites so quickly abandoned God after witnessing His miraculous deliverance from Egypt?
6. How does understanding God's righteous wrath change or deepen your appreciation for the cross and what Jesus accomplished there?

7. Moses was deemed unworthy to be a substitute because he was a sinner. What does this tell us about the uniqueness and necessity of Jesus as our mediator?
8. In what areas of your life are you most tempted to dismiss or disregard God when He seems to be taking too long to act?
9. How does the concept of Jesus as both advocate and sacrifice differ from Moses' role, and why does that distinction matter for our salvation?
10. The sermon describes Good Friday as both the most brutal and the greatest moment in human history. How do you hold these two realities together in your understanding of the gospel?