



Outward Group Discussion Guide

July 19, 2026

SUMMARY

Pastor Matt Porter addresses the congregation during a transitional period for Outward Church, explaining recent leadership changes and the church's vision moving forward with multi-campus video teaching. The sermon focuses on the biblical model of servant leadership as outlined in 1 Timothy 3, emphasizing that all Christians are called to serve sacrificially like Jesus did. Using the four C's of leadership—Calling, Character, Competency, and Chemistry—Porter explains what it means to be a deacon and how servant leadership applies not just in church but in homes, workplaces, and all relationships. The message culminates in the installation of new deacons who exemplify these principles through their faithful service to the church community.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does Jesus' model of servant leadership in Mark 10:42-45 challenge the way you approach authority and influence in your workplace, home, or community?
2. In what ways might you be coming to church or other areas of life 'to be served' rather than 'to serve,' and what would it look like to shift that mindset?
3. The sermon mentions that 'deacons are where conflict goes to die.' How can you become someone who absorbs conflict rather than projects it in your relationships?
4. What does it mean to have a 'calling' to serve, and how do you discern whether God is calling you to sacrificial service in a particular area of your life?
5. How does the character profile of a deacon in 1 Timothy 3 apply to your daily life, even if you never hold an official church position?
6. The early church almost ended before it began due to racial conflict in Acts 6. What conflicts in

our churches or communities today threaten unity, and how can servant leadership help resolve them?

7. What does it reveal about a person's faith when they continue serving faithfully through criticism, disappointment, or difficulty rather than running away?
8. How does creating a hospitable environment—whether in church, home, or workplace—serve as a witness to the gospel and make people feel the love of Jesus?
9. The sermon emphasizes that success is contentment in Christ rather than material possessions. How does this definition challenge or comfort you in your current life circumstances?
10. If your church or community multiplied its impact like the early church in Acts 6:7, what practical role could you play in enabling that growth through faithful service?