



Outward Group Discussion Guide

April 12, 2026 (Salem)

SUMMARY

This sermon explores God's self-revelation to Moses in Exodus 34:6-7, where God proclaims His own nature and character. The pastor emphasizes that we cannot fully understand our own identity without first understanding God's identity. God reveals Himself as merciful, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, and forgiving—yet also just, refusing to clear the guilty. The sermon culminates in explaining how God resolves this tension between justice and mercy through Jesus Christ at the cross, where Jesus becomes the guilty party so believers can receive God's righteousness. The message challenges listeners to base their identity not on their failures or accomplishments, but on what God has done through Christ, leading to freedom and new life for those who place their faith in Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When Moses asked God to reveal His ways and show who He is, God responded by describing His character rather than His appearance. What does this tell us about what truly matters in knowing God?
2. The sermon states that 'you cannot adequately know yourself without first understanding the identity of God.' How has your understanding of God's nature shaped or changed your own sense of identity?
3. God describes Himself as 'merciful' before anything else about His character. Why do you think mercy is the first attribute God wants us to know about Him, and how does this challenge or confirm your view of God?
4. The pastor describes God's grace as 'wave after wave' of unmerited favor. In what areas of your life have you experienced this relentless grace, and where do you struggle to receive it?
5. How does understanding that God is 'slow to anger' and 'long-suffering' change the way you approach Him with your repeated failures or persistent struggles?

6. The sermon emphasizes that God's steadfast love is both abundant and faithful, never unfriending us. How does this contrast with the temporary nature of love in our culture, and how should this shape our own relationships?
7. God forgives all kinds of sin, yet 'will by no means clear the guilty.' How do you reconcile God's complete forgiveness with His perfect justice, and why is the cross essential to understanding this paradox?
8. The pastor warns against creating a God based on what we 'like to think' rather than on His revelation. What are some ways our culture or personal preferences tempt us to reshape God's character to fit our desires?
9. If your identity is rooted in Christ rather than your failures, what specific sins or past mistakes do you need to stop allowing to define who you are?
10. As believers who carry God's nature into the world, how should God's compassion, mercy, and patience be reflected in how we engage with people whose sins or struggles differ from our own?