



# Outward Group Discussion Guide

December 21, 2025 (Salem)

## SUMMARY

This sermon explores the foundational truth that God extends grace before calling us to obedience, contrasting worldly expectations of performance with God's redemptive love. Through the narrative of Israel's exodus and arrival at Mount Sinai, the message emphasizes that God first saves us, carries us, and claims us as His treasured possession before calling us to obey His commands. Unlike human coaches or teammates who demand excellence before acceptance, Jesus offers grace despite our failures and saves us through His life, death, and resurrection. The sermon challenges believers to understand that obedience flows from gratitude for salvation, not as a means to earn it. Christians are called to live as royal priests and a holy nation, proclaiming God's excellences to a watching world not through self-righteousness, but through transformed lives that reflect His grace.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does understanding that God saves us before calling us to obedience change your motivation for living a holy life compared to trying to earn God's favor through good works?
2. In what ways have you personally witnessed God's power in your life, and how does remembering these moments help you trust Him during current difficulties?
3. The sermon mentions that God illuminates our sin not to shame us but to save us. How does this perspective change the way you respond when you become aware of sin in your life?
4. What does it mean practically to be part of God's 'royal priesthood' in your everyday interactions at work, home, or in your community?
5. How might your approach to temptation and sin change if you truly believed you were God's 'treasured possession' rather than seeing yourself as worthless?
6. The preacher was terrified to proclaim Jesus at work after his conversion. What fears hold you

back from sharing how Jesus has changed your life with others?

7. How does the concept of grace coming before obedience differ from the performance-based expectations we often experience in sports, careers, or relationships?
8. What 'drastic measures' might God be calling you to take in dealing with specific sins in your life, and what would obedience look like in this area?
9. How does knowing that Jesus bore all your shame, guilt, and sin on the cross affect the way you view yourself and your identity today?
10. In what ways are you currently living as if you're part of God's plan to save the world, and where might you need to adjust your priorities or actions?