



# Outward Group Discussion Guide

January 4, 2026 (Silverton)

## SUMMARY

This sermon explores the dual nature of God as revealed in Exodus 19 when Israel encounters God at Mount Sinai. Using the metaphor of fire—something both attractive in its warmth yet demanding of respect in its power—the pastor unpacks God's transcendence (His awesome power and holiness) and His imminence (His nearness and desire for relationship). The Israelites experienced God's raw power through thunder, lightning, smoke, and trumpet blasts, which revealed their need for consecration and a mediator. Moses served as that mediator for Israel, foreshadowing Jesus Christ who ultimately becomes our mediator, allowing us to approach God's presence not with fear but with confidence. Through Christ's death and resurrection, believers no longer approach Mount Sinai in terror but Mount Zion in joy, reconciled to God through the blood of the new covenant.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does the image of fire help us understand both God's transcendence and His imminence, and which aspect do you find yourself drawn to more naturally?
2. In what ways do we approach worship casually like 'dropping by someone's living room' rather than entering the throne room of a King, and what would it look like to change that?
3. What does it mean practically to 'consecrate' ourselves before meeting with God in worship or prayer, and how might this preparation deepen our experience of His presence?
4. How does understanding God's transcendent power and holiness help us better grasp the weight of our own sin and our need for a mediator?
5. Why do you think God chose to reveal both His terrifying power and His desire for intimate relationship with His people at Mount Sinai?
6. How does Moses as Israel's mediator foreshadow Jesus as our mediator, and what does this tell us

about God's plan for redemption throughout Scripture?

7. What does it mean that 'the most important thing about us is what comes into our mind when we think about God,' and how would you honestly assess your own view of God?
8. How can we balance having a healthy fear and reverence for God's holiness while also approaching Him with confidence and joy through Jesus?
9. In what ways are you tempted to try to be your own mediator or atone for your own sin rather than trusting fully in Jesus?
10. What is the significance of approaching Mount Zion through Jesus rather than Mount Sinai on our own, and how should this shape our daily walk with God?