



Outward Group Discussion Guide

October 11, 2026

SUMMARY

Drawing from 2 Timothy 2:8-13, Pastor Matt calls the church to keep Jesus central in their faith and their mission. Using Paul's example of enduring imprisonment for the sake of the gospel, the sermon challenges believers to move beyond a one-dimensional view of Jesus and allow the gospel to transform them into outward-focused disciples. The message emphasizes that the gospel is not merely the starting point of the Christian life but its sustaining force, compelling believers to endure hardship, share their faith, and live sacrificially for the sake of those who have not yet come to salvation. The sermon closes with an assurance that even in seasons of faithlessness, God remains faithful to those who are truly his.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The pastor warns that churches and individuals often forget Jesus and turn inward toward preferences, arguments, and self-absorption -- in what specific ways have you noticed this drift in your own life, and what practices help you stay centered on Christ?
2. Paul describes Jesus as more than a one-dimensional figure, and the pastor challenges listeners to ask whether Jesus is merely the starting point of their faith or the ongoing sustenance of it -- how has your understanding of who Jesus is deepened or changed since you first came to faith?
3. The pastor argues that the gospel is not just the ABCs but the A to Zs of the Christian life, meaning it should shape everything from marriage to finances -- which area of your life most needs to be re-examined through the lens of what Christ has done for you?
4. Paul says he endures suffering willingly because of his deep conviction about the gospel, not as a reluctant obligation but as a chosen response -- what would it look like for you to reframe a current hardship as something you are choosing to endure for the sake of Christ and others?
5. The pastor describes a moment on a mission trip when his heart was broken for a young man who rejected the gospel, and he prays the same for the congregation -- is

there a specific person in your life whose eternal condition genuinely burdens you, and what is keeping you from praying for and pursuing them?

6. The concept of election -- that God has chosen those who will be saved -- is presented not as a reason for passivity but as a source of courage and rest in evangelism -- how does the sovereignty of God in salvation either motivate or challenge you when it comes to sharing your faith?
7. The pastor uses the image of a father hiding Easter eggs and guiding his children to find them as an illustration of how God uses believers in the work of salvation -- in what ways do you sense God has uniquely positioned you to reach someone that perhaps no one else could reach?
8. The trustworthy saying in 2 Timothy 2 includes the sobering line that if we deny Christ, he will deny us, and the pastor asks whether someone's lack of fruit raises questions about whether they truly received Christ -- how do you personally distinguish between a season of spiritual struggle and a life that has never genuinely surrendered to Jesus?
9. The final promise -- that even when we are faithless, he remains faithful because he cannot deny himself -- is offered as grace to those who feel their faith wavering -- how does the unchanging faithfulness of God speak to

whatever doubt, failure, or distance you may be experiencing right now?

10. The pastor connects personal generosity, willingness to serve, and sacrifice of comfort directly to how deeply the gospel has taken root in a person's heart -- what specific cost are you currently unwilling to pay for the sake of lost people, and what does that reluctance reveal about where your treasure truly lies?