



# Outward Group Discussion Guide

December 28, 2025 (Salem)

## SUMMARY

Pastor Logan Graham challenges the congregation to move beyond a comfortable, sanitized version of Christianity that focuses only on the peaceful baby in the manger. Drawing from Simeon's prophecy in Luke 2, he reveals that Jesus came not only as the Prince of Peace but also wielding a sword of truth that pierces hearts and demands transformation. The sermon emphasizes that true Christianity involves conflict with worldly values and self-centered living. Jesus didn't come to be packed away with Christmas decorations but to overthrow the kings sitting on the thrones of our hearts. The peace, comfort, and joy we receive came at the cost of Christ's conflict, isolation, and violent death. Understanding this gift should change everything about how we live, not just during Christmas but throughout the year.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Simeon recognized Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah and was ready to depart in peace after seeing Him. What would it look like for us to have

that same level of satisfaction and completion in Christ alone?

2. Jesus said He came not to bring peace but a sword, dividing families and relationships. How have you experienced conflict or division because of your faith, and how did you navigate that tension?
3. J.C. Ryle warns against a Christianity with no fight or spiritual conflict in it. What areas of your life reveal whether your faith is truly challenging you or if you have settled into comfortable religion?
4. The sermon suggests we often want to leave Jesus in the manger rather than let Him reign as King over every area of our lives. What thrones in your heart is Jesus calling you to surrender?
5. Simeon prophesied that a sword would pierce Mary's soul and that Jesus would reveal the thoughts and intentions of many hearts. How does the Word of God function as a sword in your own life, exposing hidden motives and desires?
6. The peace Jesus offers came through His own conflict, isolation, and suffering on the cross. How does understanding the cost of our peace change

the way we approach comfort and suffering in our own lives?

7. The sermon contrasts cultural Christianity with true discipleship that involves warring, watching, and self-denial. What practical differences should be visible in the life of someone who truly follows Jesus versus someone who simply identifies as Christian?
8. Simeon understood that Jesus was not just for the Jews but a light of revelation to the Gentiles. How does this universal scope of the gospel challenge our tendency to create exclusive or comfortable religious communities?
9. The pastor admits his own tendency to pack Jesus away after the Christmas season and return to normal life. What spiritual practices or reminders can help us keep Jesus as the reigning King throughout the entire year?
10. Hebrews describes God's Word as living, active, and piercing to divide soul and spirit. When was the last time Scripture made you genuinely uncomfortable, and how did you respond to that conviction?