



### **Ice Breaker:**

- Share a time when someone showed you unexpected kindness or acceptance. How did it make you feel?

### **Short Summary of the Sermon:**

The sermon is a powerful testimony of transformation and redemption. The speaker shares his journey from a life of addiction and crime to finding acceptance and purpose through a relationship with Jesus Christ. He contrasts the rule-based religion of his childhood with the genuine love and grace he experienced in a supportive church community. The speaker emphasizes the importance of a personal relationship with God over mere rule-following and highlights how this relationship has changed his view of himself and others.

### **Group Questions:**

1. How does the speaker's story challenge your understanding of grace and redemption?
2. What are some ways that rules without relationship can drive people away from faith?
3. How can we, as a community, ensure that we are showing genuine love and acceptance to those who are struggling?
4. The speaker mentions having a "pigsty moment" where he realized his need for God. Have you ever experienced a similar moment in your life?
5. How can we avoid falling into the trap of "lip service" in our faith and instead cultivate a genuine relationship with God?

### **Life Application:**

Reflect on your own faith journey. Are there areas where you have been following rules without truly engaging in a relationship with God? Consider how you can deepen your relationship with Him and with others in your community.

### **Challenge:**

This week, reach out to someone who might feel judged or marginalized. Show them the love and acceptance that Jesus offers. Whether it's through a kind word, a helping hand, or simply listening, make an intentional effort to be a reflection of Christ's love.