

We Are Easton

Four Values to Shape Our Church Culture

Serve One Another

Series Overview

At Easton, we are shaped by four key values that define who we are and who we aspire to be as a church: (1) love God & others, (2) grow together, (3) serve one another, and (4) share (our story) with others. This study guide focuses on the value of serving one another, exploring how every act of service—no matter how small—shapes us into Christ's likeness, strengthens His church, and aligns us with God's eternal purpose.

Sermon Introduction

Life is busy, and serving at church can feel like just another task on an already full plate. Whether it's teaching kids, leading worship, or performing unseen tasks like cleaning or organizing, it's easy to serve half-heartedly or wonder why we should bother. But God invites us to serve, not because He needs us, but because serving is His design to transform us, build His church, and draw us into His unshakable kingdom. Serving—even in the most ordinary tasks— isn't about filling a slot; it's about stepping into our God-given purpose and becoming who we were created to be.

**Passage: Ephesians 4:11–13; Matthew 20:28;
Colossians 3:23–24 (NIV)**

Ephesians 4:11–13

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Matthew 20:28

Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Colossians 3:23–24

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Personal Reflection and Group Discussion Questions

1. After reading the passages, what new insight or perspective about serving stood out to you? Did anything challenge your current view of what it means to serve in the church?
2. Psalm 50:9–12 shows that God owns everything and needs nothing from us. If God is self-sufficient, what does His invitation to serve reveal about His desire for our relationship with Him? How might this change your approach to tasks like setting up chairs or greeting visitors?
3. In Matthew 20:28, Jesus defines His mission as one of service, even to the point of giving His life. How does this model of sacrificial service inspire you to approach less visible roles, like cleaning or organizing, in your church? What might it look like to serve with this kind of self-giving love?
4. Colossians 3:23–24 encourages us to work “as for the Lord.” How can viewing every task as an offering to God transform your experience of serving, especially in roles that feel repetitive or unappreciated? Share an example of a time you saw a mundane task in a new light.
5. Ephesians 4:11–13 connects serving to building up the body of Christ and growing in maturity. How might participating in ordinary tasks—like managing sound equipment or preparing coffee—help you grow spiritually or strengthen the church community?
6. In John 13:14–15, Jesus washes His disciples’ feet, a lowly task, to show the heart of service. What does this teach us about the value of tasks that seem insignificant? How can we cultivate a mindset that sees every act of service as significant in God’s eyes?

7. Revelation 22:3 envisions God's people serving Him in the new creation, suggesting service is part of our eternal purpose. How does this long-term perspective encourage you to stay faithful in small, unseen acts of service today?
8. Serving can sometimes feel draining or pointless when we don't see immediate results. How can we trust God's promise of an "inheritance" (Col. 3:24) to sustain us in serving? What practical steps can you take to serve with joy and purpose, even in challenging or mundane roles?

Prayer

Often a position of submission helps us physically connect with the spiritual reality of meeting God. A posture of kneeling with open hands can demonstrate our willingness to submit to God's power.

- **Give God praise** for inviting you into His work, even though He doesn't need your service, and for designing you to reflect His self-giving love.
- **Confide in Him** about any struggles you face in serving—whether it's busyness, lack of motivation, or feeling unappreciated in mundane tasks.
- **Thank Him** for the privilege of serving in His unshakable kingdom and for the ways He uses even small acts to transform you and others.
- **Ask Him** to give you a heart that serves with joy and excellence, trusting that every task—no matter how ordinary—has eternal purpose in His hands.