



Serve

October 25, 2026

Read & Reflect

READ: Matthew 25:31–46; Matthew 20:25–28; John 4:31–34

As you read, notice how Jesus connects love for Him with care for others. Consider how following His example changes your picture of greatness and the church.

Understand the Moment

In Matthew 25, Jesus pictures the Son of Man separating the nations like sheep and goats. Acts of feeding, welcoming, clothing, and visiting reveal the weight He gives to caring for people.

In Matthew 20, Jesus challenges His disciples' pursuit of status. Greatness in His kingdom means becoming a servant, following the One who gave His life for others.

Serving is part of our identity as disciples, both within the church and throughout the community. Jesus described doing His Father's will as food. As we obey Him, service can nourish our faith while blessing others. We may feel our contribution is small or unnoticed, but God sees what we offer and can use it in ways we cannot measure.

Process Together or Alone

- How does Matthew 25 challenge what you picture when you hear the word “church”?
- What does Jesus' example reveal about greatness?
- When has serving someone helped you recognize God at work in your own life?
- What keeps you from noticing or responding to needs around you?
- What ability, experience, or available time could you offer to bless someone this week?

Follow Jesus This Week

Listen

- What might Jesus be saying about a need you have overlooked?
- Which part of His example challenges your view of greatness?

Obey

- What excuse or hesitation do you need to bring to Jesus?
- When will you take one practical step toward serving?

Share

- Who could join you in serving through your family or Life Group?
- How could you explain the connection between serving and following Jesus?

Care

- Who needs a meal, a visit, encouragement, or a listening ear?
- How can you pray with that person and follow up afterward?



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Live It Out

Choose one practical way to serve this week, within the church or in your everyday relationships. Try this rhythm:

Notice. Offer. Serve. Reflect.

Notice a person or need. Offer the time, ability, or resources you already have. Serve with attention to the person, not just the task. Then reflect: Where did I see Jesus at work, and what is He changing in me?

Ask Nanci about a serving opportunity, or invite someone to take a first step alongside you.

Remember: Small acts of service matter to Jesus, even when nobody else notices.

Pray

- Thank Jesus for coming to serve and give His life.
- Ask Him to reveal needs you have overlooked.
- Pray for people who feel isolated, hungry, or forgotten.
- Ask for courage to offer the gifts and time you have.
- Pray for faithfulness when serving feels unnoticed.

Jesus, You came to serve and gave Your life for us. Help me see the people I pass each day and respond with Your love. Loosen my grip on comfort, recognition, and the need to feel important. Show me how to use what You have given me. Strengthen those who quietly serve, and shape me into a disciple who helps others follow You. Amen.

Group Leader Optional Questions

Opening Question:

When has someone's simple act of service made a lasting difference in your life?

Closing Reflection:

What specific act of service will you take this week, and who will you invite to join you?