

Life Group
Discussion
Guide

8/23/2026

SENT TO SERVE



Sermon Summary: This week's sermon speaks to the roots of service—unity with God and one another as He draws us together in love. Only out of that love and unity can we truly be effective. Without God, we fall short. Dr. Barbeau spoke of how the early Christians stood together in unity, even in the face of persecution. From that unity, they served those within their community as well as those in need outside of it. As disciples, we are called to do likewise.

Service is not a matter of guilt or obligation but is the natural outflow of our spiritual communion with Christ and each other. Just as Jesus washed the disciples' feet and prayed for their oneness, so too are we invited to serve from a place of deep connection to God's love. The early church, empowered by the Holy Spirit, devoted themselves to teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer. Their unity was both the source and witness of their mission, and it bore fruit in acts of compassion and care for the most vulnerable. Today, we are encouraged to discern our gifts, look for God's grace at work in our midst, and join together in service as Christ's hands and feet—trusting that true service flows from being united in Him.

Conversation Starter: Think of a time when someone showed you kindness through an act of service. What did they do, and how did it make you feel?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we gather in this community, our small life group. Draw us into that greater unity You desire for us, that greater community of all your people. Help us to feel that unity with You and to serve in Your love. Amen.

Read Scripture together: John 17: 20 – 21

3-Question Study Method

Use this method to understand the passage.

1. What is the passage about?
2. What do I learn about God?
3. What is the lesson I learn that I can apply to my life?

Discussion Questions:

- Is there someone in your life who showed you what true service looks like, much as Dr. Barbeau's grandparents did through their faithful acts of care? What did their example teach you about serving others out of love?
- Jesus prays that His disciples may be one, united in love and purpose. What practical steps can we take—both individually and as a church—to move toward this unity? Where do you see opportunities for deeper connection?
- What does it mean to you to be in unity with God and with Jesus? How might that relationship shape the way you view and approach serving others?
- How does a church community's willingness to serve beyond its own walls help it grow in faith and witness? In what ways have you seen serving others strengthen bonds within the body of Christ?
- When you reflect on your own gifts and the ways you serve—or might serve—can you recognize God's grace at work in and through you? What fruit have you seen, or hope to see, in the lives of those touched by your service?
- Sometimes, the call to serve can feel overwhelming or like just another obligation. How does understanding service as an overflow of God's love change your motivation or approach to serving?

Memory Verse: "All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need." Acts 2: 44 – 45:

Closing Prayer: Dear Lord, may we serve in unity with You and one another. Help us to seek out opportunities to use our gifts so that others might see You in our actions. Help us to step beyond what feels familiar and be willing to try something new. In Your holy name, we pray. Amen.