

Life Group
Discussion
Guide

9/6/2026

SENT TO
SERVE



Sermon Summary: Jesus doesn't begin by giving his followers another assignment; he begins by telling them who they already are: "You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world." Grace comes before service, and identity comes before responsibility. But Jesus also speaks these words to a community—following him was never intended to be something we do alone. Like a body made of many different parts, the church needs different gifts, experiences, personalities, and people working together. This frees us from believing we have to meet every need ourselves while also reminding us that each of us has something meaningful to contribute. Just as many individual lamps together can illuminate a hillside, our different gifts and acts of service become a visible witness to Christ when we offer them together. When ordinary acts of service—an invitation, a meal, a prayer, a listening ear—come together, Christ uses them to become something much greater than any one person could accomplish alone.

Conversation Starter: What is something you enjoy much more when you do it with other people rather than by yourself?

Prayer: Gracious God, thank you for bringing us together as your people. Quiet the distractions we carry and help us be present with you and with one another. Remind us that we do not have to do everything, but that you have given each of us a place in the body of Christ. Help us recognize the gifts around us and discover how you might use our own. Amen.

Read Scripture together: Matthew 5:13–16, 1 Corinthians 12:4–13

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:

- Jesus says “you are” salt and light—not “you should become” salt and light. How does that difference change the way you hear his words?
- Pastor Tim said, “Before there is any assignment, there is an identity. Before there is service, there is grace.” Why is that order important?
- Paul describes the church as one body made of many different parts. Where do you think Christians struggle most with actually living that way?
- What gifts or strengths do you see in other people that you don't have yourself? Why might God have designed the church to need both?
- Serving can sometimes feel like one more obligation in an already busy life. How can serving together change that experience?
- Pastor Tim suggested that instead of only asking, “Where can I serve?” we might ask, “Who can I invite to serve with me?” Who might be waiting for an invitation from someone like you?
- Salt usually disappears into what it seasons. What are some quiet or unnoticed acts of service that can have a bigger impact than we realize?
- Deeper Dive - What would it look like if really believing that every person belongs and every person has something to contribute, what would we have to change about the way we invite, equip, and value people?

Memory Verse: “Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.” — 1 Corinthians 12:7

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you for making us part of your body. Free us from believing that everything depends on us, and keep us from believing that we have nothing to offer. Help us notice the gifts you have placed in others, discover the gifts you have placed in us, and invite one another into your work. Send us out as your salt and light—not alone, but together. Amen.