

# WE SERVE BECAUSE HE SERVED

SERVE SUNDAY · JOHN 1:12-14; MATT. 20:28; JOHN 13:1-17; 1 COR. 12:1-12 · MAY 3, 2026 · PASTOR MATT ERICKSON

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*"I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you." (John 13:15)*

## Jesus Served Us (John 1:12-14; Matthew 20:28)

- Jesus came to make us members of God's family
- Jesus came to serve us

## We Serve Because Jesus Served Us (John 13:1-17)

- Jesus' humble service in the upper room (John 13:1-16)
- Our invitation to humble service in the way of Jesus (John 13:12-17)
- The motivation of mutual, self-giving love (John 13:34-35)

## We Serve Together as a Community (1 Corinthians 13:4-14)

- The Triune God is at work within the community who serves
- Our giftings for service is given for the good of all
- We are like a human body, using our different giftings for service together

## Living in Service

- Take a first step of service
- Take a next step of service
- Explore the ministry fair

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Answer one or both of these questions:
  - When have you experienced someone serving you in a meaningful way?
  - When have you experienced serving someone else in a meaningful way?
2. This week we take a pause in our sermon series, "The Word," so that we can explore

the topic of service. Whether on your own or with others, begin your study in prayer, asking God to speak to you, and then continue with the study.

3. Read John 1:12-14 and Matthew 20:28. How would you describe what Jesus has done for us as recorded in these verses?
4. How might it be surprising that God's Messiah would do these things?
5. Now read John 13:1-17, imagining yourself in this scene. What stands out to you about what Jesus does in this story?
6. Why might the disciples have been shocked by Jesus' actions here?
7. What invitation does Jesus offer to His followers in verses 12-17? How might this connect with Jesus' later words about loving one another (John 13:34-35)?
8. Now read 1 Corinthians 12:4-14. Who is the giver and designator of gifts? Why might this be important to remember?
9. What is one way the image of the body is helpful for you in considering the way the church serves one another and the world around us?
10. What is one thing you sense God is bringing to your attention through this week's study? If you are with a small group, discuss that with one another and then pray about what you shared. If you are on your own, write it down, pray about it, and consider sharing your thoughts with someone this week.

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### Exploring Faith

- Christians believe we are created by God with abilities, talents and gifts for a purpose. How do you think believing that would impact how you live your life and use your abilities?

### Growing in Faith

- What might you identify as your God-given talents, gifts, and abilities?
- Are you serving somewhere within the church? What might it look like to serve somewhere as an overflow of what Christ has done for you?

### Centered in Faith

- One of the most meaningful ways people begin serving is through relational and personal invitations. Is there someone in your circles of relationships that you might invite into service alongside of you?
- Is there someone who you might bless by naming their talents, gifts, or abilities ("I see this in you...") and then inviting them into service?