

# LifeGroup Study

## Hidden In Plain Sight

### DISCUSSION GUIDE

#### SERMON SUMMARY

We all want to make a big difference, but we often overlook the impact of everyday interactions. True service shifts from a chore into a meaningful encounter when we realize that showing up for others is one of the most direct ways to connect with God. Through our city-wide Big Serve initiative, we aren't just partnering with local organizations to serve the vulnerable, we are actively looking for and encountering Jesus, who is often hidden in plain sight.

#### KEY VERSE

Matthew 25:40 - "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

#### SERMON NOTES

<https://bible.com/events/4960797>  
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1. What ideas from the sermon caught your attention?
2. Read Genesis 1:27. The Bible teaches that every single human being is created in the image of God (Imago Dei). If the best place to catch a glimpse of God's character is by looking at other people, how should this truth change the way we interact with strangers, coworkers, or neighbors on a daily basis?
3. Read Matthew 25:31-46.
4. When Jesus says, "*Whatever you did for one of the least of these... you did for me,*" do you think He is speaking metaphorically (using a poetic illustration to encourage kindness), or is there a literal, spiritual reality where Jesus actually occupies the space of the suffering? How does your mindset shift if you view a local service project not as "doing a good deed for a stranger," but as a direct, physical interaction with Jesus Himself?
5. When Jesus commends the "sheep" for feeding and clothing Him, they are genuinely confused and ask, "Lord, when did we see you...?" Why do you think their service was so instinctive that they didn't even realize they were doing something deeply spiritual? How can we move from "performing" good deeds to living a life where service is just a natural reflex?
6. "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger...?" What are the biggest cultural "distractions" (technology, busy schedules, personal anxiety) that cause us to look right past the people who need us most?
7. If serving the poor is about serving Jesus, then they are actually the ones bringing Jesus to us. How does this flip the power dynamic of charity? How does it teach us humility?
8. If our ultimate goal in the Big Serve is just to improve our city's statistics or feel good about our own righteousness, we miss the point entirely. If the true target of our service is Jesus, how does that change the quality of our attention, our patience, and our love when we are on the ground serving?
9. How does your motivation change when you realize that partnering with local organizations for the Big Serve isn't about fixing a project, but about honoring a person?
10. Jesus stated that He "did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." If the definition of a disciple is someone who becomes like their master, why is it impossible to truly follow Jesus without actively serving others? How has serving in the past shaped your spiritual growth?

#### CLOSING PRAYER

Father, we lift up the local organizations across our city who are doing the hard work of serving the vulnerable day in and day out. We thank You for their dedication. We pray that as our church joins them for the Big Serve that our simple acts of service will be a powerful witness of Your Kingdom. Amen.