

Devotional Guide

June 15-20, 2026



Serve to Bless

Speaker: Mike Kleven, Lead Pastor

The message explores how followers of Jesus are called to serve not out of obligation but from the overflow of belonging to God’s family and being empowered by the Holy Spirit. Using the “Not In My Pew” story and the Connect–Grow–Serve progression, it shows that the door to our true home in Jesus stays open for others.

From the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8) and Ephesians 2:10, 19-21, we learn that we serve because we belong, we serve because we are equipped, and we serve to bless—inviting isolated and lonely people to find their true home in Jesus.

This truth challenges us to move from “I’ve found my place” to “How can I help others find theirs?”

How to Use This Guide:

Set aside 10-15 minutes daily. Read the Bible, reflect on the thought, answer questions, pray, and take the action step. Commit to this for growth—journal insights and share with a friend for accountability.

Day 1: The Danger of “Not In My Pew”

Bible Reading: Ephesians 2:19; Matthew 28:18-20

The sermon opened with a story about moving into a new home in a heavily wooded lot and the common “Not In My Backyard” attitude neighbors can develop. It also shared the painful story of a visitor to FBC Falun who was asked to move from “someone’s regular pew.”

These attitudes reveal a subtle but dangerous disconnection: we can become so comfortable in our place that we unintentionally communicate to outsiders, “You don’t belong here.” Jesus’ deployment orders in Matthew 28 call us to go and make disciples of all nations—not to guard our territory. The big idea reminds us that Serve to Bless means the door to our true home stays open.

Reflection Questions:

1. What does Ephesians 2:19 reveal about our identity once we belong to Jesus?
2. Where have you seen or felt a “Not In My Pew” or “Not In My Backyard” attitude—in the church, your neighborhood, or your own heart?
3. How does the story of the visitor being asked to move pews challenge you?
4. What small step could help you stay open to newcomers this week?
5. How does the big idea encourage you when you feel tempted to protect your comfort?

Prayer Prompt: Lord, forgive the ways I’ve communicated “you don’t belong here” to others—whether through words, attitudes, or inaction. Help me remember that I was once an outsider welcomed by grace. Make our church and my heart a place where the lonely find home. Amen.

Action Step: Identify one person who might feel like an outsider (new neighbor, visitor at church, someone at work) and take one concrete step to welcome them this week.

Day 2: We Belong to God’s Household

Bible Reading: Ephesians 2:19-21

The sermon emphasized that belonging here was never meant to be joining a private gated community at the end of a dead-end road. When we find our true home in Jesus, we become members of God’s household.

This identity changes everything about serving. We don’t serve to earn belonging—we serve because we already belong. When you know you are family, you naturally look for ways to make room for another chair at the table. The images of “fellow citizens,” “household,” and “holy temple” show that God is building something bigger than our personal comfort. The big idea—Serve to Bless—flows from this secure identity.

Reflection Questions:

1. Which image in Ephesians 2:19-21 (citizens, household, temple) most encourages you today? Why?
2. How does knowing you belong to God’s household affect the way you view serving and welcoming others?
3. Where might God be inviting you to “make room at the table” for someone new?
4. What would change in your interactions this week if you lived from the security of belonging rather than fear of losing comfort?
5. How does this truth help you move from self-protection to gospel hospitality?

Prayer Prompt: Father, thank You that I am no longer a foreigner or stranger. I belong to Your household because of Jesus. Help me live from that security. Give me eyes to see people who need a place at the table and courage to pull up another chair. Amen.

Action Step: Write “I belong to God’s household” on a note and place it where you’ll see it today. Each time you notice it, pray for one person who needs to know they belong.

Day 3: We Are Empowered – God Equips the Called

Bible Reading: Matthew 28:20; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 2:10

The sermon highlighted a common lie many believe: “I’m not equipped yet, so I can’t serve.” Pastor Mike shared his own story of waiting until after college, seminary, and becoming a pastor before he felt ready—only to realize God had already called him and equipped him in the moment he said yes.

The truth is: God does not call the equipped. God equips the called. Jesus promises His presence (“I am with you”) and the Holy Spirit’s power (“you will receive power”). You don’t need a title or perfect abilities—just availability.

The good works God prepared for you are waiting. The big idea invites us to stop waiting and start serving from the overflow of belonging and empowerment.

Reflection Questions:

1. What excuses have you used (or heard others use) for not serving—busyness, feeling unqualified, waiting until “later”?
2. How does the promise “I am with you always” (Matt. 28:20) change your confidence to serve?
3. What “good work” might God have prepared in advance for you right now—in your family, neighborhood, workplace, or church?
4. Where do you need the Holy Spirit’s power to move from fear or overwhelm to faithful availability?
5. How does “God equips the called” free you from perfectionism or delay?

Prayer Prompt: Jesus, thank You that You are with me and that Your Spirit empowers me. Forgive me for waiting until I felt “ready.” Help me trust that You have already equipped me for the good works You prepared. Give me courage to say yes today. Amen.

Action Step: Ask God specifically: “What good work have You prepared for me to do this week?” Write down whatever comes to mind and take one small step toward it today.

Day 4: The Great Commission – Go and Make Disciples

Bible Reading: Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8

The sermon called these Jesus’ “deployment orders.” When we find our true home in Jesus, we don’t get to stay comfortable behind closed doors. We are sent—first to our Jerusalem (local community), then outward.

The mission is clear: make disciples, baptize, teach obedience. But we never go alone. The same Jesus who has all authority goes with us, and the Holy Spirit gives power to be His witnesses.

Serving to bless is not about adding more programs; it’s about ordinary followers bearing witness to what Jesus has done and inviting others into the life they’ve found. The big idea keeps the focus on helping more people find their true home in Jesus.

Reflection Questions:

1. What stands out to you about Jesus’ authority and the scope of the Great Commission?
2. How does the promise of Jesus’ presence and the Holy Spirit’s power change how you view sharing your faith or inviting someone to church?
3. Who is one person in your “Jerusalem” (immediate circle) who needs to hear about the True Home found in Jesus?
4. What does “bearing witness” look like in your everyday life—at work, with neighbors, or online?
5. How will you live as a “deployed” follower this week rather than just an attender?

Prayer Prompt: Lord Jesus, You have all authority and You have sent me. Thank You for Your presence and the Spirit’s power. Help me see the people around me who need the hope of true home in You. Give me boldness to bear witness and make disciples. Amen.

Action Step: Identify one person you can invite to Friendship Sunday (two weeks from today) or simply share a meal or conversation with this week as a way of bearing witness.

Day 5: Serve to Bless – Opening the Door for Others

Bible Reading: Ephesians 2:10; Matthew 28:19-20

The sermon’s third point was clear: We Serve to Bless. By opening the door to our True Home in Jesus and inviting others to find their true home with us.

This is the natural overflow of belonging and empowerment. When we serve from guilt or obligation, it drains us. When we serve from the fullness of being connected to God and growing more like Jesus, it fills us.

Simple acts of kindness, being present, and making room often open more doors than perfect words. The isolated and lonely around us don’t need a perfect church—they need a church that is deployed. Ordinary Jesus followers who know they belong, are becoming more like Jesus, and are willing to bless others with the life they’ve found. That is serving to bless.

Reflection Questions:

1. What does it mean to you that serving flows from belonging and empowerment rather than guilt or obligation?
2. Where have you experienced serving as life-giving rather than draining? What made the difference?
3. Who is one isolated or lonely person God might be asking you to bless with the hope of true home this week?
4. What simple act of kindness or presence could open a door for someone this week?
5. How will you guard against the “Not In My Pew” attitude and intentionally keep the door open?

Prayer Prompt: Jesus, thank You for opening the door to true home for me. Help me open that door for others. Let my serving flow from the overflow of belonging and Your Spirit’s power. Use me to bless someone this week with the hope I’ve found in You. Amen.

Action Step: Choose one concrete way to “serve to bless” this week—invite someone to church, help a neighbor, reach out to someone lonely, or volunteer in a way that points people to Jesus.

Day 6: Living Deployed – Serving from Overflow

Bible Reading: Ephesians 2:10; Acts 1:8; John 15:5 (cross-reference from series)

Review the week: From the danger of closing the door on outsiders, to the joy of belonging to God’s household, to the empowerment that comes when we trust God equips the called, to the deployment orders of the Great Commission, to the call to serve to bless.

The sermon closed with a clear invitation: Don’t just attend church—be deployed into our community. The isolated and lonely don’t need a perfect church; they need ordinary Jesus followers who know they belong, are becoming more like Jesus, and are willing to bless others with the True Home life they’ve found in Jesus.

When we serve from overflow instead of overload, serving energizes us. Trust that Jesus is with you and the Spirit empowers you. You represent the household of God. The big idea—Serve to Bless—becomes our daily reality as we help more people find their true home in Jesus.

Reflection Questions:

1. What is one key insight you’re taking away from this guide about serving and belonging?
2. How has your view of serving shifted from obligation to overflow this week?
3. Where will you apply “Serve to Bless” in the coming week—specifically with someone who feels isolated?
4. Who is one person you could invite to Friendship Sunday or share this hope with this week?
5. How will you keep the momentum of living deployed rather than just attending?

Prayer Prompt: Loving Father, thank You for the gift of belonging and the power of Your Spirit. Keep me connected to Jesus every day. Deploy me into my community to serve to bless. Use me to help more people find their true home in Jesus. I am willing—send me. Amen.

Action Step: Memorize Ephesians 2:10 this week. Review the guide each morning. Share one takeaway with a friend or family member

today. And take one specific step to serve to bless someone who needs the hope of true home in Jesus.

***Let's Go Be the Church... and Help More
People Find Their True Home in Jesus.***



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