

## Small Group Guide: “EKKLESIA: My Life Message”

**Opening Question:** Describe a moment when serving others brought you unexpected joy or fulfillment.

**Opening Prayer:** *Dear Lord, we thank You for bringing us together today. As we explore Pastor Dan’s sermon on what it means to be a part of Your Ekklesia—the Church—open our hearts and minds to understand how we can better align our lives with Jesus. Guide our conversation and help us grow closer to You and to each other. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.*

### Key Takeaways:

1. The true meaning of *Ekklesia* is gathering as the body of Christ, not just attending a building.
2. Aligning our lives with Jesus involves following His lead and being His hands and feet in the world.
3. Serving others is at the core of being a Christ follower and leads to personal spiritual transformation.
4. Jesus modeled servanthood, highlighting its importance over personal agendas.
5. Our spiritual growth accelerates when we serve and obey God’s commands.

### Discussion Questions:

1. **Read Matthew 9:36-38.** The sermon mentioned that Jesus had compassion on people who were “harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” How do you see this playing out in our society today?
2. How does having compassion for others align with being part of *Ekklesia*? How can we increase our compassion for those around us?
3. **Read Romans 12:1-2.** What does it mean to offer ourselves as living sacrifices and to be transformed by the renewing of our minds?
4. **Read Mark 9:33-35.** How does the world’s view of greatness differ from Jesus’ teaching on servanthood?
5. Pastor Dan said, “Serving pushes us out into the world to see what the kingdom of God is all about.” How have you experienced this in your own life?
6. Reflect on an area where you have seen or implemented serving others. How did it affect you and the people around you?
7. Discuss Jesus’ statement: “If you love me, you will obey what I command.” How does obedience relate to our love for Christ?
8. Pastor Dan posed the question, “Why do we find it difficult to be the hands of Jesus?” What are some barriers that prevent us from serving others more readily? How can we overcome these?

**Practical Applications:**

1. This week, intentionally look for an opportunity to serve someone unexpectedly. Share your experience with the group next time.
2. Reflect on your current areas of service. Are you serving out of obligation or out of love for Christ? Pray for God to align your heart with His.
3. Consider completing the “serve card” mentioned by Pastor Dan in the sermon. Discuss with the group which areas of service you feel God might be calling you to explore. To complete online, visit this link: [laurelridgechurch.org/volunteer](https://laurelridgechurch.org/volunteer) .
4. Practice “immediate obedience” this week. When you feel prompted by God to do something, act on it right away, just as the disciples did when Jesus called them to follow Him.

**Closing Prayer:** *Father God, we thank You for the truths shared in this week’s sermon. May we carry these lessons into our daily lives and seek to align ourselves with You, continually striving to be Your hands and feet. Help us remember that greatness is found in serving others, and let our lives reflect Your love and compassion. Please give us the courage and strength to respond in obedience rather than convenience. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*