

0 (4s):

Well, good morning, everyone. Welcome. It's so good to see you guys today and online. Thanks for joining us. My name's Matt Wolf. I'm the lead pastor. I'd love to connect with you. That's why you should go to [denver.com/connect](https://denver.com/connect). And we're all about connection this season. Aren't we connect four. That's our season. What we're calling this season because so many, so much social isolation, so much loneliness. So many people that have broken relationships are missing people or moved or whatever, that it's time to reconnect or to connect for the first time. So if you're here in this church, what we're challenging you guys to do, whether it's your first time or your thousandth is to connect with four new people, connect to four people. That's why you're going to come to the water splashed bash next week. So you can meet people and then hang out with them outside of it. So we've been challenging everybody to connect with four people over the next three months.

0 (46s):

So who in here over this last week made a connection with somebody. Do we have anybody? We have see some hands. We've got Ezra right here. Okay. We got some, we got one in the back. Okay. So who do you want to, should we pick let's pick Ezra. Israel has her is our winner

1 (1m 0s):

Today. Can you catch a Frisbee? Okay. You ready? There you go. Right? Look, what's on the back.

0 (1m 8s):

Check on the back. What's in there. Yeah.

1 (1m 14s):

\$25 gift card to Panera bread soap. You can take somebody else on a connection. Take your family out, get somebody some sandwiches. Okay, sounds good. We're going to reward

0 (1m 23s):

Connection. So if over the next three months, we're giving away these gift cards, somewhere between 10 and \$50 every week that we want to encourage you guys to do even more connections. So keep doing your connections and you'll get rewarded maybe. Okay. So you should do that anyways, but that's an extra bonus, right? So we wanna encourage everybody to connect for this season. And we are in our series. Our third message in our series engage this week, as we're talking about what it means to actually connect with each other, to connect with God, connect with one another. And we're talking about how to normalize a better life because none of us really want what we had before. Only 9% of people are saying, I want what I had pre pandemic. I want something better. So if you want to normalize a better life, we're talking about some basic habits that you need to have as building blocks for the rest of your life.

0 (2m 3s):

So last week, the habit we learned was worship weekly. Just this basic thing of worshiping weekly. Not only

is it something that God tells us to do, but studies have shown and we looked at some secular studies have shown that it makes your life so much better. You should go back and listen to that message. If you miss it, if you just put that as a regular habit, worshiping weekly, it transforms your life, your marriage, so many things about you. So we're going to learn a little another one of those habits today, that if you do that, if you engage in this practice, it's going to change your life for the better. And it's very simple. It is to serve somewhere that when you realize your life, isn't about you, but it's actually who you can serve and how you can build others up that when you realize that it's actually going to transform your life.

0 (2m 45s):

That's one of the cool things. When the more you realize it's about other people, the more your life is better. And that's a cool thing that we see, and we're going to see it in God's word, as he teaches us what we are supposed to do. We're going to be in Ephesians chapter four today, because we're going to talk about this game that we're all involved in. And the reason is, is because a lot of us get the game mixed up. We don't really, and how it works. So who in here watched the Broncos pre-season game yesterday. We get some Broncos fans. Yeah, we are undefeated. Woo. Yeah. One game in it's going to be a great year, right? Hopefully we'll pray for them. Right? It was, it was a great game.

0 (3m 25s):

And if you guys watch that, I just want you to imagine for a second, you're going to attend a game. Not, I think that one was in Minnesota, this game, you're going down to mile high or whatever. They try to call it, go to mile high stadium. Right? It's always going to be called mile high. You go to mile high. You're so excited. You got like front and center seats, 50 yard line. And you're there. The game's about to start. And the whole team is out there. All the Broncos, they're cheering, they're pumped up, they're in their huddle. Right. And then all of a sudden, you know, they clap and they break. And then all of the players go to the sidelines. They go to the bench and there's one person left on the field. It's Vic, Fangio the coach. You're just kind of scratching your head. What's going on? Well, the game's about to start and there is Vic ready there to receive, you know, the kickoff.

0 (4m 6s):

And then they kicked the ball and he's sitting there and it's a great catch. Just awesome, perfect catch. He catches the ball and he tries to make it down the field. And what happens? 11 people just, boom, just all diverge right on him and just tackle him. He's he's done. Right? And then you're like, what is going on? Why is there only one person with you? Why is the coach on the field and the players on the sidelines? So you're close enough and you yell like what's going on out there, drew lock what's going on? And they're like, oh yeah, coach is just so much more experienced than the rest of us. He has been studying this game, his whole life. He loves it. He watches film all the time. He knows this backwards and forwards so much better than us. We got some rookies out here that don't know what they're doing.

0 (4m 47s):

So we're just going to stay on the sideline and we're going to let coach, what's how it's done. You, what would you say? What what's going on? This is crazy because even as they get up there for the first snap and Vic is trying to like snap it to himself, he doesn't even get one step back. Does he? Before all of the defensive linemen just tackle him. You'd probably fumble the ball. Right? Joe, what a worthless lady game play the game, right? You don't put the coach out on the field. Do you? We know that when it comes to sports, if for some reason when it comes to church, a lot of people think you go get them. Pastor, you go do your job. You, you know what you're doing? You've been studying, you know, theology, you know, the Bible. Why don't you do all this stuff?

0 (5m 27s):

And we'll kind of sit here and watch, see we get the positions mixed up. We get the game mixed up when it comes to what we're actually called to do as followers of Jesus. So today we're going to kind of flip the script and actually learn what Jesus teaches us, actually, through the apostle Paul, that we're going to be taught what our positions actually are. That's what we're going to see first. What are the positions? When it comes to the church, second, we're going to learn what the goal is. Okay? So we're all playing the same goal because it's one thing to get a touchdown, but it's no good. If you're know out there playing the field of dreams this last week. That was pretty cool. Wasn't it? Anybody watched that game out in Iowa, the baseball game feel the dreams. It's pretty cool, but, but it makes no sense to get a touchdown if you're playing baseball.

0 (6m 7s):

So we got to figure out what the goal of our game is, how do we win? And then the last thing we're going to talk about is why that's so important here in our city, in particular, here in Denver. So if you have your Bibles open with me to Ephesians chapter four, you get your smartphone. You can use the YouVersion event and what we're going to learn. First positions, the first position we have to learn are the coaches. So who were the coaches, church leaders, the church, the leaders are actually the coaches. And this is what we're going to see here in Ephesians chapter four 11 says in verse 11. So Christ himself, Jesus gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers to equip his people for works of service.

0 (6m 55s):

It's interesting. So there's all these things, different roles, but they're all for the purpose of getting his people, Jesus, people out to serve. And you could translate that word serve as ministry. A lot of people think of, oh, the pastor is the minister. Maybe they maybe the head minister, but they're not the minister. I don't like being called minister because you guys are the ministry. Did you know that we are all called serve? If we are followers of Jesus, if you're part of a church, if you're a Christian you're called to serve. And the job of the pastor, the job of the church leaders is to be the coach, the coaches. And you notice here in this passage, it talks about five different roles. Actually, people debate whether the last two are connected together, whether it's one, but whether it's four or five, it doesn't really make a difference.

0 (7m 39s):

Because what we see here as these lists, there's these different kinds of different roles, but it's one position of, of coaches. You know, people are wondering is like, Hey, it mentions pastors. You know, where's, you know, the apostle on staff here at the church, okay? It's not so much about the title. What it is, is different roles that the coaches, these church leaders played. So the first one apostles, these are the ones who are sent out. So these are people who are starters, okay. They start things, they start churches, they start movements. They might be missionaries because they're going to start things. That's what apostles do. They're starters. And it says the prophets are speakers. If you've ever gone. And you've heard a great speaker teach, or maybe you've gone and you've read a book, okay. That's a lot of the great prophecy that we're getting.

0 (8m 20s):

It's people speaking from God. It's not necessarily like predicting the future, but it's speaking. Okay. So we've got starters, we've got speakers and then there's evangelists. Okay. There might be real famous Evangel evangelists. People like Billy Graham best way a few years ago. But these are people who are, are sharers. They're sharing the good news of Jesus. These people that are very skilled and equipped. You love to invite your friends to their events than an evangelist is speaking. Because there, they can talk to people in a way that you never could write. They have a special gifting. Okay. There are people who are sharers evangelists, but then there's also pastors, pastors like me who are shepherds. Okay. That's what the word pastor literally means to shepherd over sheep, watching them, caring for them, looking after a group of people, to shepherd them and care for them.

0 (9m 3s):

And the last thing is teachers. So some people think that pastor teacher goes together. I kind of do. And I think that's my role, but, but teachers could just be people who are strengthening up others through God's word they're they're teaching from the Bible. So their Bible study teachers, you know, that kind of thing. So there's all these different sub positions, right? But there's one position that kind of has all of them. All these church leaders are the coaches. And if you see whether there's four or five of these positions, they all have the same position, right? Five different roles, one position. And what is it to equip Jesus, his people for works of service. They're the coaches to put you in the game to equip you, to train you, to get you ready so that you can do the ministry you are called to do to serve somewhere.

0 (9m 52s):

So this is such an important thing for us to understand, because what happens is when Christians don't understand this, they become one of two things. One, they become consumers. You go to the church and you're like, Ooh, a great message. You know? Ooh, I didn't like that message today. I'm going to send an email. Right? Okay. Or you're like, Ooh, that that's your chat, drink coffee. I want to go there. I'll be back. Okay. Music. Ooh, loved it. Right? Ooh. Not so much. They didn't play my song this week. Right. We become consumers when we go to church that that can happen. If you think my job is to be the fan. Right.

And I'll cheer all encouraged. But, but then it's like that game where the coach is playing and the players are on the sideline.

0 (10m 34s):

It doesn't make any sense. And then you see the coach losing again. And again, and again, it's not going to work. Right. And no wonder why people are seeing churches struggle and die. I saw one study and I'm praying to God that it's not right, but there's one estimate that over the next several years, that we are expected to see on average, 1 million people walk away from the faith in our country. We're losing ground and people are wondering why, and they're sitting back and hearing that church has more comfortable seats. I think I'll go there. See when your consumer, your team is going to lose. And you're going to be disappointed. This was going to happen when you're a consumer, because you're not getting the same thing every week. Okay. I like that message. That one was kind of offensive to me.

0 (11m 14s):

I don't know. Right? If you're just the consumer mindset, you're going to be disappointed again and again and again, or you're going to want more. That's what we do as consumers, you know, good is never enough. There's gotta be better. There's gotta be better. And there's another church over town. On the other side of town, that's doing it better. Or you watch only, man, it's hard in this digital day and age, because you can listen to the best preachers in the world from the comfort of your home, right? From the comfort of the John, you can sit there, watch the greatest feature you've ever heard. And you're like, oh, this guy's good. I wish my preacher could preach like that. Right. That's what we do. And that's the second thing. So you can become a consumer and be disappointed, or you can become a critic and become cynical. Critics are always seeing the flaws. And guess what? There's flaws. I can tell you some of the, in our church, I know him better than you guys.

0 (11m 54s):

Do you see all the flaws? Why isn't this happening? My church back home used to have this ministry. Why don't we have that ministry here? Church has never talk about this. They always talk about that, right? You become a critic finding all the flaw as in the mistakes, but critics just become cynical and we are not called to be critics. So we can't mess this up. We can't mess this up. We don't, aren't supposed to be consumers. We're not supposed to be critics. That's the thing for the church. What we're going to learn, the congregation is called to be the players. That's the second position. So if the church leaders are the coaches, the players, or the congregation got that, you guys are the players.

0 (12m 37s):

You guys are in the field. You guys are in the game. You're in the arena. Okay? People are cheering for you. I'm trying to coach you. I'm trying to equip you guys because you are as the congregation, the players, the field. See with me here in verse 11, I'm going to read it again. It says, so Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers to equip his people for works of service so that the

body of Christ may build built up for works of service. And that word service does mean ministry. I think it's so interesting. So, so you guys are the ministry ministers. You guys are the ones who are supposed to serve. My job is to just equip you and get you ready. That word equip can mean like, Hey, I'm going to give you the tools or the weapons you need, you know, to fight, you know, the tools you need for the job.

0 (13m 21s):

It can mean training, building up, but it can also mean restoring. I think this is so interesting. It's restoring something to weight the way it was meant to be, whether it's mending something or fixing something was broken. So what this is kind of saying is like, my job as a coach is to get you ready to work for what God made you to be originally. It's almost taking that old beat up rusty 1969 Chevelle. And we're gonna, you know, we're gonna off that thing out. We're going to put in the engine, make sure it's all Roran and Hamann so that we can make it roadworthy. Okay. We don't just want to scrap a metal in the garage. We want to use it for what it was meant to be. Right. You want to hear the roar of that engine C?

0 (14m 1s):

I think my job as a coach is to get you guys, God created you or something, something important, something special. It says in Ephesians two 10 that you are God's workmanship his masterpiece. And, and we're just uncovering that and restoring it to be what it was meant to be. And it's found in service somewhere. So, so I said, we don't want to be consumers. We don't want to be critics. We want to be the players because the critics don't count. Okay. Critics can talk. Okay. Everybody it critic now on Facebook, on Twitter, on Snapchat, like everybody's wants to be the analyst who in here was like the armchair analyst or the Monday morning quarterback from yesterday, right from the game.

0 (14m 42s):

And you're like, drew LA, how did we get stuck with these two guys? Why didn't they trade for Aaron Rogers? Who's saying that right with me, Vic Fangio do we still have him around? Right. We're the critics because we know football way better than they do. They're the professionals have been doing it for years, but we know the sport better than they do. Right. Even though we like drop the ball every time we got in high school. Right. Okay. That's beside the point, we know what we're talking about. I've played enough, Matt. And I can do those plays. Right? You guys know what I'm talking about? See the critics don't count. It's the players that matter. Okay. It's the players that matter. One of my favorite quotes from it comes from Teddy Roosevelt's speech. A lot of you guys know that this quote, he said that it is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done them better.

0 (15m 30s):

The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood. Oh, I love that. Who at the best knows in the end, the triumph of high achievement and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat. Doesn't that get you pumped up? Who wants to be a critic who

wants to be a consumer? I want to be in the arena. And that is what Jesus has set us apart for. That's what it's a, Jesus gave us these roles, these positions, he wants us sometimes to fail. It feels like sometimes to have dust and sweat and blood on our face, as we're trying to do these things.

0 (16m 15s):

But that's our role. If you are a follower of Jesus, you are a player in the game, not a critic, not a consumer. So it's time to figure out what God created us to do. God has created each one of us. If we a follower of Jesus, he's given us his holy spirit, which enables us to have gifts. One cool thing about this passage. It says that Jesus now in heaven, seated at the throne after the Ascension gives gifts from there. So he's working still on his throne, seeing you giving you gifts and he's created you for something special. So what we have to do is figure out what our gifts are. Figure out where our talents are, figure out where the needs are around us and what we're passionate about. And we, we put those things.

0 (16m 55s):

Something powerful happens as we serve. And as we serve somewhere, it's something powerful that happens in us. This is one of the greatest things, right? It's not just about the people we serve, but we are the ones who benefit the most. I really feel that way because it helps us. One of the things that whenever I've talked with people who are really struggling lowly in depression, and it's not the only thing, that's the problem. But what I often do is I ask them like, so where are you serving? Just one of the questions I ask. And they're like, oh, I just am not healthy for it right now. And I just need to get, get in a good place first in my mind mentally and, and figure things out before I do it. But it's the exact opposite. It's when we actually serve people and we realized, Hey, I'm probably never going to figure it all out.

0 (17m 39s):

Okay. We all got issues, right? And I'm not trying to downplay any of those mental health issues. They're real. But, but it's saying, okay, in spite of that, I'm going to serve in spite of that, in spite of that, I'm going to help people. And when we do that and realize, Hey, I'm going to serve in, in these different ways, it actually helps us find meaning in our own life. This is a really cool thing. There was another study. And this is once again, a secular study that tracks 7,000 people, 7,000 people. And they tracked these people. They were in their fifties and sixties over a long period of time. And they asked them all sorts of questions. And one of the most interesting things from this study was they found that the people who said, I have a strong purpose in life, I have a strong purpose versus the people who said, I don't know what my purpose is.

0 (18m 22s):

Those people who said, I don't know what my purpose is. I don't have a strong purpose in life were twice as likely to die over a five-year span. A lot of it was like heart issues. Like why is that? Well, there's something when you realize I'm created for a purpose I'm supposed to serve in different ways. I'm supposed to do ministry, whatever it is, we all have ministry that we actually have a reason to live. We have a purpose in our own life. This is one of the most fascinating things that, that we see from Victor Frankel. I loved his book.

The man man's search for meaning Viktor Frankl was a psychiatrist who was a Jew. So he was arrested in prison, thrown in the concentration camps during world war II.

0 (19m 4s):

And he had this whole theory about therapy. He calls it logoff log therapy, which is about meaning, okay. And then he got to test it there in the concentration camps. And while he was there, he had this theory and it actually was proved out what he found was that people, some people were strong and wet. Even if they die, they would have their head hanging high. And then others would, would despair and lead themselves either to kill themselves or just die from despair. And he's like, well, what's the difference? And it's the people that have a meaning to their life. So he talks in particular about two guys in his book. He said there was one man who was really despairing, really hopeless. And he was struggling.

0 (19m 44s):

It didn't look like he would make it. So we talked with them and just tried to get, find out from his life, what what's going on in your life. And he found out that this man had a young son who was out of the camps, waiting and hoping that his dad would be released at some point. And this man came to realize through this therapy, like, actually I have a purpose because that son needs a father and I'm going to be the best father he could ever have. No one else could take my place. He needs a father. So then he had a purpose to live and he speaks about another guy who was a scientist. And it was kind of despairing because all the work that he had done was kind of worthless because he hadn't finished the book he wrote, but that even became the meaning for him because he said, I've got to finish because nobody knows what I know. Nobody's studied what I've studied. Nobody can finish my book, but me and that gave him the purpose to push through what he found again and again.

0 (20m 30s):

And it was the people that not figured out the meaning of life in general, the people that figured out what the meaning of their particular life is. What's the purpose. Those are the people who were able to push through and have the strength to keep going. So that's why I want you to find where God is calling you to serve. Where's God calling you to serve. Where is he calling, calling you to minister? Because God wants you to be involved as mission. He's created you for something special like this. He wants to use you. And the coolest thing is, is actually, this is what we're supposed to do in worship. So we talked to him last week of worship weekly. Yes, we, we do it weekly, but this is part of our week. I want to see this in Romans 12 one and Romans 12 one.

0 (21m 14s):

It says, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you. Paul says, I plead with you to give your bodies, give your lives, give your all to God because of all he has done for you, let them be a living. And holy what sacrifice, the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Give your bodies as a sacrifice, serve others. Find your mission. Find your calling, find where you can serve and then burn yourself up doing it.



Okay? That's your sacrifice to God, Catherine of Sienna once said, be who God meant you to be. And you will set the world on fire.

0 (21m 57s):

I think that's true. This is the living sacrifice because there are other people around us that are living in darkness that are struggling. They're dealing with their own despair and hopelessness. They don't know Jesus. They need light to shine into the darkness. And we are the ones who are called out to do that. So we've learned today, we've gotten the positions mixed up. Haven't we? The church leaders, the pastors, the elders staff here on church. We're the coaches. We're coaching you for your position to be the players on the field, in the arena, marred with dust and blood and sweat. Right? And then what's the goal.

0 (22m 37s):

So that's gonna be the important thing. So why are we doing all of this? Because there's one overarching mission and it comes from Jesus and it is building up the church. I mean, it, this is what Jesus tells us. The reason why we have all these gifts is to build up the church. You might have individual purposes, but it all is subsumed under the grand purpose of his church by church here. Yes. We mean universal church, big capital C church. But the universal church is only found in the local churches that make up that bigger church. Okay. So if you're here and you're like, I'm a Christian, I'm a follower of Jesus, but you're not a part of a church become a part of a church. If you don't like me, go to some other church. Okay. Find somewhere else where you can serve and burn yourself up. Okay. I don't care, but there's no lone ranger, Christians.

0 (23m 18s):

You're only part of local church, just okay. That's my little rant for the day. Okay. Actually, I might have some more, sorry, Bob. But our goal is to build up the church because the church is where hope is found in Jesus Christ. He has chosen us. Jesus could come back at any moment, but he has chosen not to. He has chosen and said to call up people that are his own, equip them, give them gifts to serve others and to spread the name of Jesus and shine light into the darkness. He's chosen to accomplish his great mission. He's waiting for us to step out and serve and love and give. And he wants us to build up the trust. I want you to see this so clearly in verses 12 and 13. So we're going to pick up the second half of verse 12.

0 (23m 59s):

So it says, so that the body of Christ may be what built up. Right? Very clearly until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness Christ, what Jesus is saying here, Paul, cause it said Christ gave this. Paul is writing it out. What it says is that we're all having this ministry. We're all supposed to serve somewhere so that the church may be built up in two ways. It's saying here in breadth and in depth breadth, meaning we've got to build up the church. There's people that aren't part of the church yet. Right? Do you guys know anyone who you're like, I would love for them to be a part of the church.

0 (24m 41s):

I would love for them to be a Christian. They don't know Jesus. Anybody know anybody like that. I think we all do. Right. Do you think we have reached the maximum amount of Christians here in Denver or in the United States or in the world? I don't think so. Either. We all work with them. We all love them. They're in our families. They are not part of the church yet. So we can grow in breadth. That's why we're sending over people like Kenton and Aaron, who I believe are joining us right now from north Africa, they messaged me yesterday, said they were going to try to join us. Thank you guys. We love you. Welcome. They, they just started their, their work there in north Africa. Awesome. So that, that, that we can increase the breadth of the church. Right? So churches can be built up there and we can see more and more people that those numbers grow as more important. People come to know Jesus.

0 (25m 21s):

So it's breadth, but it's also depth here. Isn't it? It says that we have to reach full maturity and unity in the faith. Do you think we're fully unified as Christians? You guys can laugh right there. Okay. That's that's somewhere to laugh, right? There've been more divisiveness over masks and vaccines and Donald Trump and all sorts of craziness over the last year. Right? We are not United as Christians. We're not there yet. What about maturity? Do you think we're all mature. You can laugh at that one too. Right? Okay. We're not, we do stupid foolish things. We hurt each other. We, we, we do things and we walk away from the entire church because of, you know, two or three people that hurt us. That's what people do. Like the church hurt me. Like, no, it was just a handful of people that were awful.

0 (26m 2s):

Right? Okay. We have all these things because we're not fully mature yet. Are we? And until we have reached all the people who can be reached with the gospel breadth until we have reached full maturity and wisdom and unity in the faith, we have not reached our depth. Neither have we. So that means the goal isn't finished. We've got work to do. And it's your job to do it. Jesus has called you has equipped. You has gifted. You has positioned you to serve somewhere. So will you play the game? Are you going to sit there and be a consumer or even worse? A critic?

0 (26m 42s):

I don't want to play the game and I, you do too. That's why I want to be a coach. I'm still a player coach. I love playing the game. Right? Okay. I get to in this game, it's not that I have to stand on the sidelines the whole time I get to play too. But we're all in this together guys. And I want to equip you. I want to coach you on to restore you, to be who God has called you to be one study found that only 80, I'm sorry, not only 89% of Christians, church goers, 89% say that the church's job is to serve them in their families. 89% of people when surveyed. That means they think I got to go to the church with best coffee, with the best kids program. Oh, my kids are older. The youth ministry. I'm not too sure about it here. Okay. I'm going to go to a different church.

0 (27m 22s):

They think it's serving them. Okay? The church is not to serve you. It's to equip you to serve others. You are the servants. You are the ministers. So let's get this game straightened out. Okay? We wanna win. We wanna win here at rice church, Denver, there's two ground left to be taken. So I want you to serve here in our city. There is a lot of darkness. Studies tell us that nine out of 10 people that we meet here in our city, don't go to church anywhere. They're unchurched nine out of 10. It tells us that there are twice as many dogs in our city. As there are Christians that there are more marijuana dispensaries than there are gospel preaching churches in the city.

0 (28m 6s):

That's where we live. And I think Northeast Denver is way worse than the rest of the city, right? He has no one. You work in it. You live in him. There's so many people who are in darkness and it's the darkness that leads to despair, leads to self destruction and all those other things and leads to an eternity away from God and hell is hot and eternity, long time. And those people nine out of 10 could be on their way to judgment right now. Well, we do something about it. There are 350,000 people, unchurched people who are within a five mile radius of this church. Some of you commuted way farther than five miles, just by my 350,000 people who don't know the name of Jesus.

0 (28m 48s):

Yes, we haven't called on his name, who aren't saved. We've got work to do don't we? And we need to shine our light into darkness. And we need to burn ourselves up by serving where God called us to whatever it is. And I wanna encourage you to try something to serve somewhere that you don't know. No, what's your purpose is until you've tried some stuff. Okay. Like, nah, that wasn't, it kid's ministry. Wasn't it. Okay. Or I tried it. I, I love kids. Okay. Tech ministry. No, I'm not a computer person. And then you try it and you're like, oh, this is actually pretty easy. I could do this. Or I don't think I could ever mentor a kid. There's no way I could, I could be part of whiz kids. And then you try it. And you're like, actually, this is kind of fun.

0 (29m 29s):

This is awesome. These kids get to hear the name of Jesus in there. Cool. How amazing is that? I want to crude you to try something, just try something you'll eventually. And the best thing is you can try it and say that didn't work because then you can move on to something else that God has created you to do. Okay. Check it off. Nope. Not that thing. So I wanna encourage you to serve somewhere on your seats is a card that says, put me in coach. Can everybody say, put me in coach? Good. Put me in coach. Okay. Because it's time to get in the game. It's time to get in the game. You don't have to have it all figured out. You don't have to be a totally mature Christian. The point of serving is to get there. Isn't that interesting?

0 (30m 10s):

You don't have to have it all figured out. You could still be struggling yourself, but it's to serve because as we serve, God does something powerfully in our own hearts and in our lives. So I want you to fill this card out. If

you're already serving somewhere awesome. And you love it. You're like, I'm already doing what God called me to do. Don't feel this out. But for everybody else, fill this out. Even if you're serving somewhere in your life, this is not my thing. I'm doing it because you needed a greeter, but might do not want to be a greeter. Right? Okay, cool. Try the cafe team. Try kids, tried something else. Try serving with the Denver rescue mission. We serve meals three times a month there that that's serving our community may maybe with our refugee ministry that we've launched this summer to help a local refugee family and to help them prevent them from homelessness.

0 (30m 50s):

There's amazing ways that we can serve in our life, in our community. Some of you like Matt, I give 20 hours a month. Community service somewhere else. Awesome. Praise God. If you're doing that in the name of Jesus, just let us know. We want to bless you and equip you to do that. That's what you've been called to do. Can we, as the church go out. So take a moment. Get this card out. If you're online, go to [denver.com/surf](https://denver.com/surf), or just get your phone out and you know what to do with this thing, right? They're everywhere. Now. You can't go eat without seeing one of these things, right? We all know what to do with the QR code. Go. You can fill it out online. Or I send her to accomplish serve, fill out this card. And then I want you to drop it off there's boxes on the way out. Or you can give it to Sawyer trap our associate, give these cards to someone because we want you to serve somewhere. You're the players on the coach.

0 (31m 30s):

Okay? Time to get in the game,

2 (31m 33s):

Man, coach put me in coach.

0 (31m 36s):

So take 20 seconds. Fill it out. I'll give you and right up here, you can see his picture. We have a Nisha Armstrong. She got baptized last week. This is why she says she served. She says, I serve because of what God has done in my life. And I want to help others experience

3 (31m 54s):

That too. God has done something for your life. It's time to serve. Give that

0 (31m 59s):

To somebody because it's in serving that God does something powerful in us.

3 (32m 15s):

So I hope that you will find your place to serve. Maybe you've tried something. It hasn't worked out. Try something different. You feel burned out. That means that wasn't your ministry. There's a different ministry

because God created you for ministry. You've been sitting too long in the stance. It's time to get in the game to shine a light into the darkness. Did you know? That's where we, we, we get the name of our church, a rise church. We had to change the name last year, Isaiah 60, it says arise. Shine for your life has come. Darkness covers the earth. Great darkness is over the land, but his glory rises above us.

0 (32m 56s):

We want to shine into the darkness around here. We want to rise and shine so everyone can see the goodness of Jesus who gives

3 (33m 2s):

Oh, to the hopeless who gives meaning to the meaninglessness of life. Jesus

0 (33m 9s):

Is the one who calls us. And when we follow him, we find the fullest life. And even better than that eternal life with

3 (33m 16s):

Him forever in heaven. And we get

0 (33m 20s):

To tell people about that. We get to be a part of that transforming this city to have more light and Lester. Yes.

3 (33m 28s):

So let's pray. Lord God,

0 (33m 32s):

We as Christians, we, as a church are saying, put me in coach,

3 (33m 37s):

We want to serve, show us where we should serve, what, what you've

0 (33m 41s):

Created us to do. And let us find how amazing it is

3 (33m 46s):

To burn ourselves up with our lives as a sacrifice for you. And I pray that you use us to shine the light into the darkness so that people could find truth, true light, true life. And your son, Jesus.

0 (34m 0s):

Now with eyes closed right now, I know that there are some of you who

3 (34m 3s):

Have never put your faith in Jesus Christ.

0 (34m 7s):

And let me tell you about Jesus. He had angel serving him

3 (34m 10s):

In heaven. He had everything,

0 (34m 13s):

But instead of saying, staying as a consumer, he decided to come down empty himself, lower himself, to be a human and to serve us. He became a servant, became a slave for our sake, obedient even to the point of death, because on the cross, he served us

3 (34m 28s):

To forgive us of our sins. And then

0 (34m 31s):

He rose from the dead after he was dead buried for three days. And he ascended into heaven where he is right now, wanting to give you gifts

3 (34m 39s):

And empower you to do the ministry he's created you to be. So if you want to join his team, today is the day,

0 (34m 47s):

Okay? Some of you are like, you need to get in the game. Some of you need to join the team. And if you're ready to say yes to Jesus, to accept his gift of eternal life, I want you to please repeat this prayer after me. And if you're already a believer, say this prayer to you to give courage to someone who needs to save

3 (35m 1s):

For the perverse time. So please repeat after me, dear God, I'm a sinner. I need a savior. Save me. Forgive me in faith. I declare Jesus is Lord. Fill me with your spirit. Help me to follow you and surf on your mission.

0 (35m 30s):

Now with close, if you accepted Jesus as your Lord and savior for the first time today, would you slip your hand in the air? Nobody's looking around.

3 (35m 35s):

Eyes are closed. Slip your hand into the air. Praise God. If you're online, go to rice and Rocom slash follow and fill out that form. God, we are so grateful that people are joining the team and more and more people. Lord

0 (35m 47s):

God, we just want to see this city, this nation, this world, world reach

3 (35m 52s):

With the good news. Use us, show us our purpose. Help us to serve you wherever it is Jesus name. Amen. And man, would you please stand together as we sing this song and we praise the name of the Lord, our God.