

YOU MATTER HERE

Personal Study / Quiet Time Guide

24/7 Family Church · Based on Pastor Greg Faulkenberry's message

Length: about 40–50 minutes in one sitting if you journal honestly — or three short sittings of about 15 minutes each (one per point) · Scripture: NIV

Big idea: Every person matters because Jesus builds His church as a body; the church's purpose is to equip that body to grow in love and make disciples.

Take-home

I belong to the body. I am needed in the body. We are sent as the body.

Before You Begin

Find a quiet place. Bring a Bible (NIV if you have one), a journal or notes app, and an honest heart. This is not a sermon to rush through — it's time with the Lord. Give yourself room to journal honestly (about 40–50 minutes if you do it in one sitting), or take one point at a time across three short sittings of about 15 minutes each. If life is full, pray the opening prayer, read the Scriptures, then take one point today and the others later this week.

Opening Prayer

Jesus, thank You that You build a body, not a crowd of spectators. Quiet my rushing thoughts. Meet me here. Show me where I belong, how I am needed, and where You are sending me. Speak through Your Word. Amen.

A Word for You

Some of us walk into church — or into a room — wondering if anyone would notice. Some of us sit on the edge of the body, unsure we fit. Catch this and don't let go:

You matter here.

Not because you perform. Not because you give enough. Not because you have it all together. Because Jesus builds His church as a body — and He put you in it on purpose.

Today you'll walk three movements from Sunday's message: **You belong. You are needed. We are sent.** Let the Word do the heavy lifting. Write what the Spirit brings up. Then take one concrete step.

Scripture to Read

Read these passages slowly (NIV). Pause after each block. Underline or note anything that lands.

1 Corinthians 12:12–14, 18, 27

“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.”

“But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.”

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”

1 Corinthians 12:21–22; Ephesians 4:15–16

“The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I don’t need you!’ And the head cannot say to the feet, ‘I don’t need you!’ On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable.”

“Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”

Ephesians 4:11–13; Matthew 28:19–20

“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 be built up 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 of Christ.”

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Point 1 — You Belong

1 Corinthians 12:12–14, 18, 27

Paul’s picture isn’t a stadium with stars and spectators. It’s a body. Many parts. One Spirit. Same Christ.

You may feel like the foot that says, “I’m not a hand, so I don’t belong.” Or the ear: “I’m not an eye, so I don’t count.” Paul says that feeling doesn’t remove you from the body. **God already placed you.** You don’t invent your place — you receive it. You don’t earn belonging — Jesus bought it.

You know the walk-into-a-room feeling: stomach tightens, conversations already going, you wonder where to put your hands — and somewhere inside you conclude, *I don’t fit*. That feeling is real. It still doesn’t un-place you. God placed the parts, every one of them, just as He wanted them to be.

Optional: Many adults feel lonely — you’re not imagining the ache. There is room. You belong.

Journal

1. Where have I felt “I don’t fit” — at work, school, family, or even church — and how does 1 Corinthians 12:18 speak into that?
2. What’s the difference, in my own story, between *earning* a place and *receiving* one from God?
3. Who in this church has helped me feel that I belong — and what did they do?

This week I will

Name one place God has already placed me in this body (even if it feels small), and thank Him for it out loud.

My note: _____

Point 2 — You Are Needed

1 Corinthians 12:21–22; Ephesians 4:15–16

Belonging isn't the end of the sentence. The body doesn't just include you — it **needs** you.

The quiet ones matter. The ones who pray when nobody claps. The ones who set up chairs, hold babies, text the hurting, show up early, stay late — Paul calls them *indispensable*. Parts that seem weaker aren't optional. They're how the rest of the body keeps growing.

Leaves get the compliments. Roots stay underground. Nobody posts a picture of the roots — but pull the roots and the tree stops growing. Some of us carry root gifts: prayer, faithfulness, showing up. Unseen. Essential. Don't despise what God put underground.

And think midweek: Sunday can look strong, but what often helped someone grow wasn't the stage — it was a quiet text: “*How are you really?*” Church isn't a few stars and a crowd of spectators. A body with unused parts is limping. Ephesians says the body grows **as each part does its work**.

Journal

1. Which “root gifts” do I tend to undervalue in myself — or overlook in others?
2. When has someone else's quiet faithfulness steadied me (a prayer, a text, a show-up)?
3. Where might I still be sitting on the sidelines — and what would it look like to do “my part” this week?

This week I will

Send one midweek “How are you really?” text (or call) to someone in the body — not to fix them, just to connect.

Who I'll reach: _____

Point 3 — We Are Sent

Ephesians 4:11–13; Matthew 28:19–20

So what is the church *for*? Christ gave leaders — not to do all the ministry — **to equip His people** for works of service, so the body is built up and grows to maturity in Christ.

We gather to be equipped. We scatter to love, serve, invite, and teach. 24/7 Family Church isn't waiting for a finished building to start being the church. We are the body **now** — at Bozeman, in homes, at work, at the school door, around this county.

Stay with the math of ordinary faithfulness. If each of 20 people tells 1 person about Jesus each week: **1,040** gospel conversations in a year. **10,400** in ten years. If each of those 20 sees 1 person come to faith in a year: **20** salvations a year. **200** new lives in ten years. Twenty ordinary people. Ten thousand conversations. Two hundred new lives — *if each part does its work*.

Optional: Joy tends to spread — one joyful believer can change the weather of a circle. That's what a sent body does.

We are sent.

Journal

1. How does “equip His people for works of service” change the way I see Sunday gatherings — and my own role?
2. Looking at the room-of-20 math, what's one ordinary way I could share Jesus (or invite someone closer) this week without needing a platform?
3. Where is God already sending me this week — home, work, school door, neighborhood — and what's one faithful next step there?

This week I will

Take one sent step — invite someone, share my story briefly, pray with someone, or serve in one concrete place.

My next step: _____

Closing Prayer

Jesus, thank You that I belong because You placed me. Thank You that I am needed — even the quiet parts. And thank You that we are sent together. Help me take one faithful next step this week. Grow me in love. Make disciples through ordinary people — including me. Amen.

Send-out

Go as His body — each part doing its work — and remember: **You matter here. Not someday. Today.**

Weekly Takeaway

Keep these close this week — not three new practices, but follow-through on what you already wrote above:

- 1. Memorize the take-home:** *I belong to the body. I am needed in the body. We are sent as the body.*
- 2. Read again:** 1 Corinthians 12:12–27 and Ephesians 4:11–16 (NIV).
- 3. Follow through:** Take the three “This week I will” steps you already named under Points 1–3.
- 4. Ask the Lord:** “Where have You placed me in this body — and what is my next faithful step?”

My commitment this week:

“As part of the body, I will _____.”

I completed this study.

Name _____ Date _____