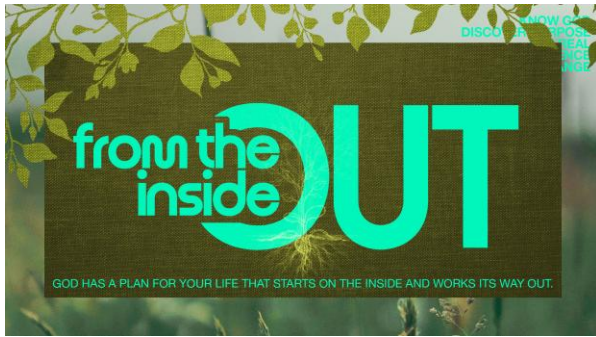




STUDY GUIDE: September 13, 2026
Message Series: From the Inside Out
Message Title: Get in the Game
Teaching Pastor: Brian Hughes

Warm-Up / Icebreaker (10 min.)

What's something you enjoy much more when you're actually participating rather than just watching?

Pray:

Heavenly Father, thank You for bringing us together today. Thank You for Your presence as we talk, listen, and learn from Your Word. Help us be present with one another and attentive to what You want to show us. Give us wisdom, humility, and a willingness to hear from You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Get Started: (30 min.)

- What's a time when someone did something for you that really made a difference?

Pastor Brian described the difference between sitting in the **stands** and being **on the field**. A spectator can enjoy the game, but the people on the field are the ones participating and contributing to the outcome.

- What do you think keeps people from moving from the stands to the field, whether in sports or in their faith?

Read Luke 9:1–2 and Luke 9:6.

- What do you notice about the way Jesus moved His disciples from watching Him to actually participating in His work?
- Where do you naturally find yourself helping or serving other people? What do you enjoy about it?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:7 & 1 Corinthians 12:12, 27.

- What do these verses tell us about why God gives each person gifts and how those gifts are meant to be used?

Reflect and Commit: (40 min.)

"For the follower of Jesus, the Church is not just something you go to, it's something you make happen." — Pastor Brian Hughes

Read 1 Peter 4:10.

- Who has taught you something about serving others simply by the way they live?
- Why do you think it matters that we use what God has given us to serve other people rather than keeping those gifts focused primarily on ourselves?

Read Ephesians 5:15–16.

- What do you think is the difference between attending a church and actually being part of making the church happen?

Pastor Brian acknowledged that many people are busy and may hesitate to get involved because they are afraid serving will require more time than they can give. His challenge was not to give unlimited time, but to **draw a line around the time you can give and find a place where you can serve.**

- Other than family and work, what tends to compete for our time and attention, and how can we become more intentional about making room for the things that matter most?
- What could it look like to serve God with the time and capacity you actually have?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:18, 21–22.

- As you think about your church and the people God has placed around you, what is one thing you appreciate about being part of the body of Christ—and how might God be inviting you to be part of making a difference?

“Together, we form one body - what Paul calls “the body of Christ”. He’s talking about the church. And what’s the purpose of the church? The common good of humankind - the transmission of the ultimate good news. The epicenter of where we can Know God, not just know about God. The church matters that much.” — Pastor Brian Hughes

Gather Prayer Requests: (5–10 min.)

Pray:

Father, thank You for the gifts and abilities You have given each of us. Thank You that You have a place for every person in the body of Christ and that every contribution matters. Forgive us for the times we have been content to sit in the stands and simply watch. Give us courage to step onto the field and use what You have given us to serve others. Help us recognize the opportunities around us, be faithful with the time we have, and trust You with the results. May our service point people toward hope, love, and ultimately toward Jesus. In Jesus’ name, Amen.