

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. What brings you joy?

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

2. Read Matthew 11:28-30. What is God saying?
3. Please read John 15:1-8. What kind of relationship does God want to have with you?
Compare this passage with 1 John 2:28.
4. Jesus was an example to us. Read Mark 1:35; Matthew 14:23; and Luke 5:16. What did Jesus do in these verses?
5. In the bible, we see examples of people who hear a special message from God, only after they separate themselves from their routine. (Abraham, Moses, David, Elijah, and others). Pastor Ruben said, "There are certain messages God has for you that could only be heard when you separate yourself from others and your routine." When was the last time (if ever) that you took a spiritual retreat by yourself? What happened?
6. Let's get real...How much time do you spend on social media every day? How much time do you play video games or watch TV every day? How much time do you read your bible and pray every day? Do any changes need to take place?
7. Jonathan Edwards said, "One aspect of a Christ-enamored heart is a gnawing ache to get alone with him." Does your heart ache every morning to spend time with Him? Are you able to function throughout the day without spending time with Him? Do you have an unquenchable thirst to be with God...every day? What do your answers say about your relationship with God?

8. "To practice the presence of God is to take pleasure in and become accustomed to His divine company, speaking humbly and conversing lovingly in our hearts with Him at all times, and at every moment, especially in times of temptation, pain, spiritual dryness, and even unfaithfulness and sin." (Brother Lawrence, The Practice of the Presence of God) What do you think about this quote?

9. Do you agree or disagree with this quote and why? "Don't assume the voices in your head are Christ's. Assume they are yours. Unless you have his word before you to read, or memorized and hidden in your heart, you are not alone with God. You are just alone with yourself. Christ communicates himself to us through his word made alive and real to our souls by his Spirit." (John Piper)

10. Are you going to start this plan today, tomorrow, next week? Why or why not? Share your thoughts with your group.

Application

Below are some of the points shared in the message. Discuss how they apply to your life.

- Choose To Go Deeper With GOD
 - Decide to put God First in your life
 - Determine when and where you will spend time with Him - like, before you leave for work - in your bedroom, the car, etc.
 - Have a plan to read God's Word - There are different Bible Plans out there. You also have different devotions to choose from. Here's what I want you to do...learn to read the bible. Devotions are great, but they don't substitute for reading the Word of God.
 - Before you read God's Word, PRAY.
 - REMEMBER: God wants to speak to you. Ask God to speak to you.
 - THEN...Read it.
 - Your attitude matters. You don't read it quickly. You read it slowly.
 - I like to highlight or underline. THIS IS GOD SPEAKING TO YOU!!!!!!
 - CHALLENGE: Spend time with God every day.