

Message Study Guide

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

Warming up

1. Share a time when you visited a new place that you felt welcomed. What was unique that made you feel that way?

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 Leviticus 11.
 - a. How many laws about what can and can't be eaten do you find in this chapter?
 - b. If you were to live under those laws today, do you think you could remember them all?
 - c. How important was it to God that the people of Israel remain holy?
 - d. Who were the Jews?
 - e. Who were the Gentiles?
 - f. Why is it important to know the interactions between these two groups of people?
3. Read Acts 10:1-8.
 - a. According to these verses, do you think God saw Cornelius as a "good person"?
 - b. Was Cornelius' deeds and prayers enough to make him right with God?
 - c. What did Cornelius need?
4. Read Acts 10:9-16.
 - a. Why did God tell Peter to eat the animals in the vision?
 - b. Why did Peter reject God's command?
 - c. What did God mean when he said, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean"?
5. Read Joel 2:28-32. Who was God going to send salvation to?
6. Read Acts 10:17-23.
 - a. Did Peter understand the vision at first?

- b. What was significant about Peter inviting in Cornelius' men as guests?
7. Are you willing to serve and welcome those into the church who may be seen as "unclean"?
Let us know, thorncreek.church/guests

Application

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

- "Grace works ahead of us to draw us toward faith, to begin its work in us. Even the first fragile intuition of conviction of sin, the first intimation of our need of God, is the work of preparing, prevenient grace, which draws us gradually toward wishing to please God." - Thomas Oden
- You can be a "good person" but not right with God. You can mow your neighbor's lawn, donate to charities, even go to church services, but none of that will save you. None of that cleanses you from your sin that separates you from God.
- Obedience is God's love language. Jesus said, If you love me, do what I say. If you really want to get God's attention, do what He says.
- No matter your history, no matter your background, no matter your lineage, no matter anything. God loves you and wants to be in relationship with you! He loves you to the point of the cross!