

Message Study Guide

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

Warming up

1. Did you move from one place to another as a child? If you did, how did that affect you?

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. Paul the apostle says a tremendous prayer for the church in Ephesus. Please read Ephesians 3:14-21. What about this passage grabs your heart?
3. Ephesians 3:20 is the foundation of ThornCreek Church. If you could accomplish anything in this world, what would it be? Do you believe God could do more than that in your life?
4. A.W. Tozer said, "God is looking for people through whom He could do the impossible, what a pity we only attempt things we could do on our own." What percentage of your life does NOT require God to show up? Meaning...If God doesn't show up...it will fail.
5. A big step of faith for many people is related to their financial giving at church. What's your attitude about money and the church? Is it positive or negative? What are your thoughts?
6. Billy Graham said, "If a person gets his attitude toward money straight, it will help straighten out almost every other area in his life." What are your thoughts about his quote?
7. John Ortberg talked about four (4) different types of givers. Which one are you?
 - a. THE FIRST LEVEL is a Chip-In Giver. Somebody comes to the Lord and they start coming to church. Before long they think, "You know, I guess it costs something to run this place." So, they say, "I'll put in a \$20. I'll put in a little bit. I'll chip in." It's a "CHIP IN" or starter mentality.

- b. THE SECOND LEVEL is the Crisis Giver. This is the person who gives to tornado victims in Joplin, MO. He or she responds to human suffering and that is good, but many times it is sporadic. It's all based on what YOU decide is important.
 - c. THE THIRD LEVEL is a Systematic Giver. This is when the tithe is understood as a teaching of Scripture. This person believes and accepts that we are to give ten percent of all that God has given us to bless the Lord, and build the Church, etc.
 - d. THE FOURTH LEVEL is a Spirit-Directed Giver. They look at tithing as a starting point.
8. They revisit their budget, their lifestyle, and they consider ways to give above and beyond the systematic tithe.
 9. Please read the following verses about giving and talk about them: Leviticus 27:30; Malachi 3:10; Luke 11:42; Luke 6:38; and 2 Corinthians 9:6-8. Personal question: Have you taken that step of faith to honor God with your finances?
 10. Being part of a church takes commitment. Commitment through the highs and lows, joys and tough times. What is the longest you've ever stayed at one church?
 11. The goal of ThornCreek Church is to fulfill the Great Commission. Please read it in Matthew 28:18-20.
 12. Pray for God to use ThornCreek Church for His purpose. Pray that we are able to build with our new budget of \$2m. Pray that God moves in the hearts of the city, sub contractors, and we can start moving soon. Pray that we are faithful in the school, and God uses us today.

Application

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

- We all have a part of this building project
- When we give to the church building program we are paying it forward for generations!
- The finish line is NOT a building.
- The finish line is HEAVEN.
- God wants us to be the church TODAY, whether we are in a school or our own building