

**Message Study Guide**

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

**Warming up**

1. Pull out your phone and search on YouTube, Google, Instagram, Facebook, or Twitter the phrase "serving others". Describe the headlines that pop up. (If you are in a small group choose 2-3 people to do this exercise).
  - a. What does the internet say about serving?
  - b. Is it consistent with what the bible says about serving? Why or why not?

**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 Roman 1:1
  - a. What does Paul call himself?
  - b. What does it mean?
  - c. What do you think about those descriptions?
  - d. What are some reasons people give for not volunteering in a church?
  - e. What does a servant mean to you?
  - f. Is it positive or negative connotations?
  - g. Compare with the words of Jesus in Mark 10:45 and Matthew 23:11.
3. What do you think about Francis Chan's quote: "Our greatest fear should not be of failure but of succeeding at things in life that don't really matter."
4. What do you think about Dr. Gilbert Bilezikian's quote: "True fulfilment will never come through self-gratification."

5. Read Ephesians 4:1-16.
  - a. What does this passage say about God's purpose?
  
  - b. What is the purpose of serving?
  
  - c. What's the difference between volunteering for a good organization outside the church, and serving in a ministry through the church?
  
  - d. What would happen to the Body of Christ if Christians did not serve in the church?
  
6. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11.
  - a. Who empowers a Christian to serve?
  
  
  - b. How is this different from someone who is not filled with God's Holy Spirit?

**Application**

**Have you discovered your spiritual gifts, the joy of serving, and are you in a ministry that reflects your shape? Would you sign up today?**

- **Please visit: [ThornCreek.Church/Volunteer](http://ThornCreek.Church/Volunteer)**

**Did you write someone's name down on PRAY? (If not, pick someone now that you will pray for)**

- **Pray for them every day, between now and Christmas Day.**
- **Commit to inviting them to church sometime between now and Christmas Eve services.**

Stay up to date on everything happening with our Prevail Campaign at **[thorncreek.church/prevail](http://thorncreek.church/prevail)**