

## Message Study Guide

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

**Warming up**

1. What does the word commitment mean to 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. There are two quotes that ThornCreek Church stands on...do you know them by memory? Please read Ephesians 3:14-21 for one of them. The other is, "God is looking for people through whom He can do the impossible, what a pity we only attempt the things we can do on our own." (A.W. Tozer). What are the three core values at ThornCreek?
3. According to Matthew 16:18, who is the Founder and Head of the church?
  - From a scale of 1 to 10, how important is the local church in your life?
  - Do your actions and habits reflect your number? Why or why not?
4. What are the seven habits that ThornCreek lists as a Christ-driven life? Which habit do you need to develop?
5. According to Hebrews 12:1-2, what is required to run the race for every Christian? Can you give an example where you had to spiritually persevere? How long have you been at ThornCreek? Have you had to endure anything at ThornCreek? Talk about it.
6. At ThornCreek, we believe in loving God and loving people. Please read this commandment at Matthew 22:34-40 and John 13:35. Does your life have visible evidence that these two commandments are important to you?
7. According to Luke 15:1-7, who did Jesus minister to? Did He ever compromise His conviction or values?
  - Where is the Great Commission in the bible? Please read it.
8. Recent church stats say: About 6,000 churches in North America close their doors every year.
  - 3,500 Americans leave their churches every day.
  - Less than 20% of Americans attend church regularly.
  - 15% of churches in the U.S. are growing.
  - Only 2% are growing by conversion growth.Does this surprise you? Why aren't churches growing?

9. A Barna Study, May 26, 2017, said Denver is the 20th most unchurched city in the U.S. Does this surprise you? Why or why not?
10. What are “good works” in Matthew 5:16?
  - How does this differ from good organizations that are not “Christ-Centered”?
  - What are some “Good Works” that ThornCreek does?
11. According to Ephesians 4:11-13, what is the purpose of church leadership?
  - What is the overall purpose of people in the church?

**Application**

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

- Ephesians 3:20 (NIV) Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,
- "God is looking for people through whom He can do the impossible, what a pity we only attempt the things we can do on our own." - A.W. Tozer
- THORNCREEK'S THREE CORE VALUES - On our front windows!!!!
  - Unconditional Love
  - Authentic Relationships
  - Personal Transformation
- THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THORNCREEK CHURCH
  - Our heart is emotionally wrapped up around the local church because we know the Founder.
  - We value perseverance.
  - We believe love should be visible.
  - We are an intentional place for sinner and saint.
  - We work hard so that people can see Jesus clearly.