

Message Study Guide

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

Warming up

1. How many churches have you attended in your life? Did you grow up in the church as a child?

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. Please read Psalm 84.
 - a. What are your thoughts about this chapter?
 - b. What verse jumps out at you?
 - c. What are your thoughts about verse ten?
 - d. Compare it to the Message translation.
 - e. Do you feel this way about the church? Really?
 - f. Do your actions and habits reflect your love for the church?
3. Why is it that some people have different commitments to the church?
4. According to Matthew 16:18, who is the head of the church? Compare with Revelation 19:7.
5. What are your thoughts about this quote?

"During the first year of the pandemic, one out of five people that used to go to church, are now checked out of church." - Barna Research Group

6. Do you think the pandemic has helped or hurt church loyalty? Explain.

In what ways has your church commitment changed?

7. Is attending church essential for being a Christian? Is attending church essential for being a good person? Explain.

8. According to Barna Research, "One in Three Practicing Christians Has Stopped Attending Church During COVID-19".
 - a. Are you surprised? Why or why not?
 - b. Do you think the physical church will be replaced by the digital church? Explain.

9. Read Ephesians 4:11-16
 - a. Who is the church?
 - b. What is the responsibility of the pastor?
 - c. What is the goal of the church?

Application

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

- If you love Jesus, you'll love His church.

- Your commitment to the church is directly associated with your relationship with Jesus.

- We are living in a new era today. The COVID-19 Pandemic has accelerated it.

- Church is not a cruise ship it's a battleship.