

Message Study Guide

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

**Warming up**

1. What is your favorite flavor of Ice Cream?

**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. What is the difference between just a friend and a true friend?
  - a. How many friends do you have on social media?
  - b. How many true friends do you have?
3. Please read Acts 2:42-47. How would you describe these friends in this passage?
  - a. How is it different from the traditional definition of friends?
4. Pastor Ruben said, "You don't need another friend. You need someone who loves you enough to help you stay spiritually focused. Someone to speak truth in love. Someone who prays with you. Someone who loves Jesus and wants God's purpose for your life as bad as you do." Do you agree or disagree, and why?
5. According to Proverbs 18:24, who is this friend? What do they look like? How are they different?
6. Pastor Ruben talked about a fear that we have in relationships. "If I say something potentially offensive, I will lose the friend. So, I'll stay away from that subject. The end is...we talk about things that are non-offensive, non-threatening, non-significant." What percentage of your friendships fall into this category?

7. Do you have friends who will talk to you about your attitude, the way you carry yourself on social media, or about that inappropriate relationship?
  
8. We all need the grace of God. Sometimes we can think we're "not as bad" as that friend. What do you think about Dietrich Bonhoeffer's question? "How can I possibly serve another person in unfeigned humility if I seriously regard his sinfulness as worse than my own?" - Dietrich Bonhoeffer
  
9. Can you think of any famous friends in the bible? What can we learn about their friendship?
  
10. According to Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, why two are better than one?
  
11. Do you see any value in being in a Small Group at ThornCreek Church? Why or why not? Would you commit to a small group in the next three months?

### **Application**

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

- You don't need another friend. You need someone who loves you enough to help you stay spiritually focused. Someone to speak truth in love. Someone who prays with you. Someone who loves Jesus and wants God's purpose for your life as bad as you do.
- "Nothing can be more cruel than the leniency which abandons others to their sin." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- You can always tell how much spiritual accountability someone has in their life by listening to someone or reading their posts.
- Be a friend to everyone, but choose your circle carefully.