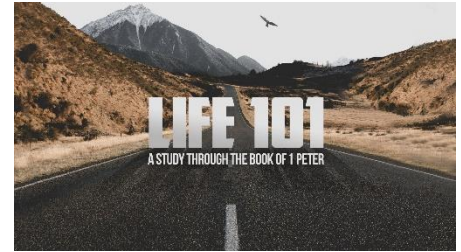


Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: **LIFE 101 – 1 Peter**

Part 10 – The Troubles of Marriage

April 2, 2017



Connect (15min)

* **EASTER'S a Comin'**

Do you & your family have any Easter traditions? How you prepare for and celebrate Good Friday & Easter? What are your plans for this Good Friday & Easter Weekend? Are you inviting anyone to Church with you?

Pray: Take a couple of minutes as a Group to pray for the people your Group is inviting.

Check-In (15min)

One of the Values we want to engage and grow in at Main Street Church is:

We are whole life, faith-filled, all in risk takers

> We never want to insult God with small thinking and safe living.

"The adventure of the Christian life begins when we dare to do what we would never tackle without Christ" – W. Penn..

How have you been encouraged, challenged or changed through your adventure with Jesus this week?

How might you engage His adventure for you even more this week? What is 1 fresh step you could take with Him?

Sunday Message Feedback (40min)

* **Pastor Shawn** continues our LIFE 101 series in 1 Peter.

Special Note on This Week's Topic of Marriage: *Although marriage is the focus be sure to include those who are single in your Group discussion as it is designed to be helpful for all of us regardless of our marital status.*

1. **Love & Marriage go together like a...**

- What is one of your favorite love songs, and why? Discuss.
- Name as many famous marriages as you can (as a Group) in 1 minute.

2. **Read 1 Corinthians 7:27-28**

- Shawn pointed out that this verse illustrated that marriage is a commitment to a life of trouble. Have you seen that to be true in your own marriage, or if you are not married have you seen trouble in those you know who are married? Discuss.

3. **LOVE IS:** Go around your group and have each person finish the following statement: Love is _____.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

- Why do you think Paul begins defining love by telling us that it is patient? Discuss.
- Have you ever thought about this chapter on love as a description that helps you deal with the troubles that come in relationships (of any kind)? Discuss.

"You don't fall into LOVE. You COMMIT to it. LOVE is saying I will be there no matter what." – Tim Keller

4. This week Shawn made it clear that **love is a choice and not an emotion.**

Can you come up with some things that you have done to choose to love someone, even though you didn't feel like it? Have you ever been on the receiving end of that kind of unconditional love? Explain.

"Our culture has accepted two huge lies. The first is that if you disagree with someone's lifestyle, you must fear or hate them. The second is that to love someone means you agree with everything they believe or do. Both are nonsense. You don't have to compromise convictions to be compassionate." – Rick Warren

5. Submission is one of those things that can be hard to talk about and even harder to practice, yet the Bible tells us to submit to one another. Fortunately, the Bible gives us some instruction on what it looks like to put someone else's needs above our own. Read [Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33](#) and [Philippians 2:5-11](#) and talk about how we can "imitate" God's love and Christ's attitude.

6. Christ's love for the church is not just a great example of submission, it also shows how it was meant to be a model of how men should love their wives.

What are some things that keep people today from truly loving others in this extreme way?

7. We got a clear message this week that love is a choice and that it cannot be built upon emotion. At the same time, God gave us the capacity to experience a wide range of feelings/emotions. Read the following passages and note in your own words what feelings can be a result of a loving marriage.

[Proverbs 5:15-19](#)

[Song of Songs 4:9-10](#)

- a. Can you think of any dangers associated with making these kinds of feelings the 'ultimate goal' of a marriage?
- b. Marriage on Mission: What do you think the Goal of Marriage is according to God's design & purpose?

Application & Prayer (20min)

What might it look like for you, personally, if you lived your life "**deeply considering**" those around you?

>> If you are married how would it change your marriage? Discuss.

PRAY with and for marriages in your group and in our church.

This Week: Read [1 Peter 3:1-12](#)

Ask Jesus to help you "deeply consider" those you are in relationship with.

"What can you do to promote world peace? Go home and love your family." – Mother Teresa

(Consider the attached list of Marriage Resources)

Resources

For a larger list of Resources on the topic of LOVE & MARRIAGE please contact Pastor Eryn at the church office.

Scripture: <http://www.openbible.info/topics/marriage>

Websites: <https://fiercemarriage.com>

<http://www.familylifecanada.com>

<http://www.themarriagecourses.ca>

<http://www.iamsecond.com/struggles/marriage>

Books: Available on Amazon.ca or through Christian bookstores.

Sacred Marriage

(2002) by Gary Thomas

The Meaning of Marriage

(2011) by Timothy Keller

You and Me Forever: Marriage in Light of Eternity

(2014) by Francis & Lisa Chan [YouTube Channel](#). Video Resource: www.youandmeforever.org

What Did You Expect? Redeeming the Realities of Marriage

(2010) by Paul David Tripp

Love Talk (Communication & Conflict)

(2004) by Drs. Les & Leslie Parrott

The Five Love Languages

(2014) by Gary Chapman Resources: www.5lovelanguages.com

The Surprising Secrets of Highly Happy Marriages: The Little Things That Make a Big Difference

(2013) by Shaunti Feldhahn

Real Marriage: The Truth about Sex, Friendship, and Life Together

(2013) by Mark & Grace Driscoll

Love & Respect: The Love She Most Desires, The Respect He Desperately Needs

(2006) by Emerson Eggerichs

From This Day Forward

(2014) by Craig & Amy Groeschel

The Mingling of Souls: God's Design for Love, Marriage, Sex, and Redemption

(2015) by Matt Chandler

Fit to Be Tied: Making Marriage Last a Lifetime

(1993) by Bill & Lynne Hybels

Boundaries in Marriage

(2002) by Dr. Henry Cloud & Dr. John Townsend

Getting Ready for Marriage - (2016) by Jim Burns & Doug Fields

Announcements

Sunday Morning Prayer

Every Sunday. 8:15am in the Prayer Room. Contacts: Pastor Shawn & Pastor Eryn.

SET FREE Retreat

April 7-8. Main Street Church. Info & Registration: www.mainstreetchurch.ca/set-free

GOOD FRIDAY & EASTER SUNDAY

Good Friday Service. April 14. 10am. Worship-Reflection-Communion.

[Kids programs for Nursery-Gr.4. Gr.5 & Up join the adults in the Auditorium]

Easter Sunday. April 16. 9am & 10:45am.

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

Sat. April 29. 9am. Conference Hall & Café. Tickets on Sale in April. \$5.

BAPTISM Celebration

Sun. May 7. 6pm. www.mainstreetchurch.ca/baptism

MAN BREAKFAST

Sat. May 13. 8am. Conference Hall & Café. Tickets on Sale in April. \$5.

FRESH START Finance Course

Wednesdays. May 10-31. Main Street Church. Info & Registration: www.mainstreetchurch.ca/fresh-start