

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Message: **PERSEVERE – Part 5**

March 3, 2019



Connect (15min) – Share refreshments.

*What is **1 Thing You are Thankful for Today & 1 Thing We Don't Know About You Yet?**

*Read [Psalm 23](#) and invite one person to open in Thanksgiving to God & Prayer for the Group.

Sunday Message Feedback (35-45min)

*Speaker: Shawn Vandop – Lead Pastor. Message: PERSEVERE – Part 5.

- 1. COURAGE!** *The dictionary defines Courage as the ability to do something that frightens one; strength in the face of pain or grief; latin origin = heart.*
 - When you think of the theme – COURAGE – which stories/characters come to mind from the Bible, literature, theatre/movies, or sports?
 - What is one the most courageous thing you have ever done? How did that experience change you?
 - Talk about a time where you thought you were confident in something but ended up failing in the end.
 - *Did you try again? *How did that experience change you or shape future decisions?
- Shawn said that “***Courage in life is only as good as the confidence behind it.***” Do you agree? Discuss. Considering the theme of our series -- How does Courage connect with a life of Perseverance?
- HEBREWS 101** -- What do you know about the book of Hebrews?
 - *Option: Watch [The Bible Project Introduction to the book of Hebrews](#) (8min on YouTube)
 - *Here is a short background on the book so your group understand the context.
 - We do not know who the Author of Hebrews is. Some believe it to be Paul but we have no conclusive evidence that we can say with assurance that it was. Which is fine – because in the end the author is God. He wrote it – we just don't know whose human hand he used to pen it.*
 - Hebrews is a letter written to Jewish believers (Hebrews). These Jews had come to place in their faith in Jesus Christ as their Messiah but they were beginning to drift. Many were going back to what they once knew and were giving up on Jesus. That's why this letter focuses on so many things that a Jewish audience would understand. The writer speaks about priests and sacrifices and angels and Moses and the list goes on. At first glance it may not seem relevant to you and me – but if you take the time to read it you will soon see that we have the exact same problem as these early believers did. Just like these Hebrew Christians - We end up believing that our old ways and other ways are better than Jesus and if we aren't careful we will end up trying to find satisfaction and fulfillment in things that we will end up believing are better than Jesus.*
- Read [Hebrews 10:32-39](#)
 - Do you ever struggle with “giving up” on your faith in Jesus?
 - What one brief example of something (an issue or question) that initiates this struggle?
- Read [Hebrews 10:35](#) - Shawn mentioned that the implication is that the confidence (trust) is something that you have to throw away if you don't want it. **God doesn't change – we do.**
 - *Why is this important to understand when it comes to putting our confidence in Jesus?

6. Two Ways to Throw Our Confidence Away

Shawn Talked about how we can “throw away” our confidence in Christ:

a. *We consider our circumstances rather than considering Christ.*

*Read [Hebrews 12:1-4](#)

*The word “think” (in the NLT) is translated “consider” (in the NIV) and can best be understood as “**comparing**.” The author is challenging us to take our lives and our struggles and compare them to what Jesus struggled with and through. Take a moment and compare your struggles to Jesus struggles (*make a list of what Jesus went through for us*). Does it give you courage to persevere? Discuss.

*Another way to compare your life with Jesus is to ask yourself, “**Is Jesus better than what I am going through?**” That is the focus of Hebrews. It is a call to settle the issue of whether Jesus is better than whatever comes your way or solution to your issues, etc.

1. Are you ever tempted to pick something or someone else over Jesus? Why?
2. How does embracing Jesus as better than anything else give us courage to persevere? Discuss.

b. *We confuse confidence in ourselves for confidence in Christ.*

*Shawn said that “self-help” or “self-confidence” works for a while until it is tested.

>> How has this been true in your own life?

*What will be the outcome of placing all your confidence in yourself?

*Read [Hebrews 10:19-22](#) - How does this passage of Scripture give you confidence?

7. Read [Hebrews 12:12-13](#)

a. How does this verse encourage you? b. How can you practically do what it says? Discuss.

Application & Prayer (15-20min)

1. **When we suffer and experience hardship it can be hard to see God’s plan and purpose.**

Yet, God is way more committed to our greater good and to making us more like Him.

a. Are you willing to invite God to use your hardships and struggles to make you more like him (Holy)?

b. Are you willing to stay the course and persevere and not “throw away” your confident hope in Jesus?

***Share with the group** what you need from God in order to live with that kind of confidence.

2. **PRAYER:** Break into groups of 3-4 or Men/Women to enhance the opportunity for sharing and prayer.

Option A:

***Based on our discussion and the topic of Perseverance & Courage -- how can we Pray for you personally?**

Option B:

***Read the Courageous Disciple Prayer (on p.3) in unison as a Group & then pray for one another.**

(Prayer composed by Miles McPherson)

As a Courageous Disciple,

I am in a disciplined pursuit for the heart of The Father,
a heart that is being perfected in love for God and people.

Father give me a heart that:

- Desperately seeks face-to-face intimacy with You.
- Faithfully avoids that which displeases You.
- Humbly embraces a Kingdom Mindset.
- & Values making Disciples.

Jesus, create in me a heart that:

- Values being guided by the Word of God.
- Gratefully grows in generosity.
- Nurtures a burden for lost people.
- & Demonstrates a commitment to a Spirit-filled expression of my gifts.

Holy Spirit develop a heart in me that:

- Gracefully gives and receives forgiveness.
- Passionately worships God.
- Is dependent on the power of prayer.
- & Serves with Humility.

Father, knit my heart with Yours. Fill my heart with Your passions, motivations and desires.
In Jesus Name, Amen.

SUGGESTED READING:

<http://www.openbible.info/topics/courage>

[*Hope in the Dark: Believing God Is Good When Life Is Not*](#), by Craig Groeschel.

[*Didn't See It Coming: Overcoming the 7 Greatest Challenges That No Expects and Everyone Experiences*](#), by Carey Nieuwhof.

[*Unshakable Hope: Building Our Lives on the Promises of God*](#), by Max Lucado.

[*It Ain't Over Till It's Over: Persevere for Answered Prayers & Miracles in Your Life*](#), by R.T. Kendall

Announcements

Our NEXT LIFE GROUP MEETING: DATE / TIME / LOCATION. SNACK DUTY: _____.

MAKING THE CASE FOR LIFE – Apologetics Training with Scott Klusendorf

Sat. March 23. 9:30am-12:30pm. Main Street Church. Tickets are Free. Please register online: chilliwackprolife.com
Scott Klusendorf is a master in apologetics, and this is an opportunity to learn step-by-step how to make your case persuasively. You will get answers to three questions:

1. How do I simplify the abortion issue for those who think it's complex?
2. How do I defend the pro-life view scientifically and philosophically?
3. How do I refute five common objections to the pro-life view?

*Scott will also be our Sunday morning guest speaker (March 24).

MAIN STREET WOMEN: *Dessert En Blanc*

Sat. April 13. Details & Tickets available soon!

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Fri. April 19. One Service at 10am.

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES

Fri. April 21. 9am & 10:45am

MAIN STREET MEN - MAN BREAKFAST

Sat. April 27. 8am-9:30am. Main Street Church – Conference Hall. Tickets - \$5 (Available in April).

BAPTISM SUNDAY

Sun. April 28. During the Sunday Services. Register online: <https://mainstreetchurch.ca/baptism>

SET FREE RETREAT

May 3-4. Friday 5:30pm-9pm / Saturday 9am-7pm. \$40. Info & Registration: <https://mainstreetchurch.ca/set-free>