Main Street Church - Life Group Guide



Title: *Hills We Die On: We Love the Local Church*
Pastor Shawn VanDop
Date: November 1, 2026

Life Group Connection

"The Church Is People"

The local church isn't just a Sunday service we attend; it's a family we get to be part of. Before we talk about loving the church, let's take a few minutes to think about the people and relationships that make church meaningful to us.

- Share a moment: What is one small thing someone at church has done that made you feel welcomed, encouraged, or cared for?

- Make it practical: What is one simple thing we could do as a Life Group to help someone at Mainstreet feel more connected and loved?

- Look outward: Is there someone in our church family we could intentionally encourage, include, or check in on this week?

Open in prayer, thanking God for this local church and for His people in it!

Life Group Discussion

Before you get deeper into Pastor Shawn's message on the local church, take a look at this short video on the story in Acts of the Beginning of the Church.

What Happened at Pentecost and Why It's Important

What's a lighthearted "hill you're willing to die on"? What helps us distinguish a personal preference from a conviction worth sacrificing for?

1. **Who has helped you experience the love of Jesus through the local church?** Share a person or moment that made a lasting difference in your life.
2. **Read Matthew 16:13–18.** What stands out about Jesus saying, "I will build my church"? How does remembering that the church belongs to Him shape our expectations and involvement?
3. **Read Ephesians 5:25.** Jesus loved the church and gave Himself for her. How does that challenge the way we think about, speak about, and treat His people?
4. **"If my commitment lasts only as long as everything suits me, my preferences are carrying more weight than my love."** How can we recognize that in ourselves? How can we address genuine concerns in ways that help the church become healthier?
5. **Read Acts 1:8.** What does it mean to depend on the Holy Spirit as we share Jesus? Where do you feel you need His courage or help to be a witness?
6. **Read Acts 2:42–47.** What stands out about the early believers' life together? Which of those practices could our Life Group grow in, and what might that look like?
7. **"Who knows enough about your life to help you follow Jesus?"** What keeps us "good" and "busy" instead of letting people know us? What helps a group become a safe place for honesty, encouragement, and accountability?
8. **"Sometimes the change we want to see is an invitation God is giving us."** Where might God be inviting you to contribute through your gifts, time, or care? If you're in a season of needing support, what would help you receive it?

Life Group Prayer

"The story has reached us. Who will it reach through us?" Who is one person you could help take a step toward Jesus? What specific step will you take this week—to **connect, serve, repair, or reach**—and how can this group support you?

Close by praying for the people named and the steps each person has shared.

Help Us Grow Together

As we walk together in faith and in community, we want to make sure our Life Group ministry continues to support, encourage, and challenge each of us where we are at. To do that well, we need to hear from you! This short survey has just five questions and takes about two minutes. It is **completely anonymous,** so please be honest. Your feedback is essential in helping us see where we are thriving and where we can serve and equip you better. Please complete this survey by Sunday, November 15. Thank you for taking the time to invest in our Life Group ministry. Each Life Group member can access this QR Code below for the ***Spiritual Growth Survey*** :