

# Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: **PARENTHOOD**

Message: **Part 3 – Are You Raising Human Beings or Human Doings?**

September 29, 2019. Speaker: Shawn Vandop – Lead Pastor.



**Connect** (20min) – share refreshments.

\*If you have a larger group feel free to break into smaller groups of 3-4 people, or men/women.

## \*ICEBREAKERS

- Tell us 1 Thing We Don't Know About You Yet. (It can be silly, serious, strange or spectacular...)
- What is 1 Thing You Love About Being Human? What is 1 Thing You Find Challenging About Being Human?
- It could be any other creature on earth for a day which one would you choose & why?

## \*PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP

- Share 1 way or area that have you seen God move in/through your life this week? or  
Where would you like to see God move in/through your life this week?
- Do you have a Bible Reading Plan or personal devotional plan/focus for the month of October?

\***PRAYER:** Invite a Group Member to open your Discussion Time in Prayer.

## Sunday Message Feedback (35-40min)

### 1. Message Feedback:

- Human Beings vs Human Doings** – How would you describe the difference between the two?  
Parents -- When you think of your Kids' future, what do you think more about:  
>> *what they will do, or who they will become?*
- What did you learn about God from the Sunday's Message this week?**

### 2. Read [Proverbs 2:1-10](#)

- What jumps out at you from this text?
- In your life (or as a parent) can you think of a time where you earnestly sought and searched for wisdom?
- Shawn mentioned that when raising our kids "*success is not the goal but rather a by-product.*"  
How have you seen this to be true?

### 3. The Four Seasons of Parenting: Which season are you in right now as a parent?

- Ages 1-5 – Discipline Years
- Ages 6-11 – Training Years
- Ages 12-18 – Coaching Years
- 18+ - Friendship Years

- Which stage was most difficult for you, or which stage do you anticipate being a struggle, and why?
- Do you remember what the goal of each stage was to instill into our kids?  
***Self-Awareness >> Self-Direction >> Self-Control >> Selflessness***

### 4. Respond to this statement from Sunday:

*"We are to FOCUS ON THE PEOPLE THEY CAN BE, NOT THE PLACES THEY'LL GO."*

- Do you agree? **b.** Why is this important in raising kids?

5. Read [Proverbs 3:1-8](#).

*The Three Areas of Focus we as parents should have in the life of our Kids: Time, Prayer & Fear of the Lord.*

**TIME.**

***“What we do with our kids is far more important than what we do for our kids.”*** Agree/Disagree?

- a. Looking back, how important was time with your parents? What do you remember about those times?
- b. As our parent, God desires to spend quality time with us.  
How important is it for you to spend time alone with God? How does that impact your earthly relationships?
- c. It has been said that to see your true priorities in life, examine your ‘checkbook’ and your calendar.  
If we were to get a “sneak peek” at your calendar, what priorities would we see?

**PRAYER:**

***“You’ll never be a perfect parent/person, but you can be a praying parent/person.”***

- a. How does this statement encourage you?
- b. Would you say that prayer is priority in your life right now?  
If so, share the success of the process you use for prayer. If not, is there some small change of direction you can make right away to start down the road of an active prayer life?
- c. When you pray for God to impart wisdom to you, what are the specific areas where you need guidance?  
How do you specifically pray for your kids?

**FEAR (of the Lord)**

***“Your children’s future is connected (not determined) to your faith.”***

- a. How does this statement impact you? How has it been true in your own life?
- b. What does it mean to “fear the Lord?” Discuss.
- c. God wants to bless you and your children, but sometimes He can’t because you love something or fear something more than him. Examples could be loving career, finances, marriage, loving your kids more than God, or putting personal accomplishments first. Is there an area of your life where this truth resonates?

6. **JESUS – The Ultimate Human:**

Read [John 1:1-14](#); [Philippians 2:5-11](#); [Colossians 1:15-20](#); [Hebrews 4:14-16](#)

\***JESUS is Fully God & Fully Human.** He shows us Who God Is & Who we are meant to be as His Children.

Read [John 15:1-8](#)

- a. Considering what you know about the life and teachings of Jesus, what can we learn about *Human Being*?
- b. Considering *Being & Doing...*  
How would you describe the difference between *Religion* and a *Personal Relationship with God*?
- c. Considering Jesus’ example -- How does *our Being* impact *our Doing*?
- d. How can Parents teach, model and relate this to their Kids?

\*Optional Video Resource: <https://thebibleproject.com/blog/what-does-it-mean-to-be-human>

## Application (15min)

As parents our goal is to “train up” our kids and to equip them to grow in godly character. To do that we much also be growing in our character. What is one area of your life that you need to grow in your character? Are there any cracks that you are aware of? Ask Jesus to show you.

In the weeks ahead, pray about the person you can be and how God can use that inward character to take you to places in your life that will glorify Him. If you eagerly pursue the process of walking in obedience you can, in turn, walk in victory.

During your devotional time this week, write a few paragraphs that would serve as a memorial of your life to be read at your funeral. Think about including some of the following points:

>> *your character traits* >> *your priorities in life* >> *and the ways you trusted God.*

Use this exercise for guidance in a process to focus on who God might want you to be.

**\*Memorize [Proverbs 3:5-6](#)      \*Read a Chapter of Proverbs each day in October.**

**\*PRAY for the Parents in your lives this week!**

**\*Check out the *Grow in Godly Character* Resource (p.5-6) for your own enrichment.**

## Prayer (20min)

**\*Read Paul’s Prayer Together from [Ephesians 3:14-21](#).**

*<sup>14</sup> When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, <sup>15</sup> the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth*

*<sup>16</sup> I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit.*

*<sup>17</sup> Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. <sup>18</sup> And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high,*

*and how deep his love is. <sup>19</sup> May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.*

*<sup>20</sup> Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. <sup>21</sup> Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.*

**\*PRAY for One Another:** Stay together as a group, or break into smaller groups for prayer.

“Based on our Scripture & Discussion how can we Pray for you this week?” – Pray for One Another.

## Announcements

\*Our NEXT LIFE GROUP MEETING: DATE / TIME / LOCATION. SNACK DUTY: \_\_\_\_\_.

### MSC – Weekly Newsletter & Announcements Email

Sign-up for our Weekly Church Newsletter (if you aren't receiving it already) by visiting our website.

### Sunday Series: PARENTHOOD

Sept.15: *The #1 Trend That Shapes a Child's Life.*

Sept.22: *Custom Made - Why One Size Parenting Doesn't Work.*

Sept.29: *Are You Raising Human Beings or Human Doings?*

Oct.6: *Parenting Do Overs - What Parents Would Do Differently if They Had the Chance.*

### Next Steps

**Sun. October 6<sup>th</sup>.** 12:15pm-1:30pm. Conference Room A. [www.mainstreetchurch.ca/next-steps](http://www.mainstreetchurch.ca/next-steps)

### Partnership Class

**Sun. October 6<sup>th</sup>.** 6pm-8pm. Main Street Chapel. [www.mainstreetchurch.ca/partnership](http://www.mainstreetchurch.ca/partnership)

### Set Free Retreat

**October 18-19.** [www.mainstreetchurch.ca/set-free](http://www.mainstreetchurch.ca/set-free)

### Main Street Women – Fall Study : *Quest*

**Wednesday Mornings.** October 23-December 4. 9:30am-11:30am. Main Street Chapel.

Leader: Kate Welfing. Childcare provided. Registration Open Online: <https://mainstreetchurch.ca/women>

### Empower Retreat

**October 29-30.** *Set Free Retreat is a pre-requisite.* Details & Registration available soon.

## Godly Character Traits

1 Cor 13:1-13; Gal 5: 22-23; Eph 4:31-5:4; Col 3:8-14; 2 Pet 1:3-11; 1 Tim 2:2-12; Jam 3:2-12

### Grow Your Thoughts

1. Bible knowledge – 2 Pet 1:5; 1 Tim 3:9
2. Meditation (memorization) – Deut 30:14; Josh 1:8; Psa 1:1-3; Rom 12:1-2
3. Think about: true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent & praiseworthy things – Phil 4:8

### Grow Your Emotions & Attitudes

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|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Love (feel) – Gal 5:22; Rom 5:5 | 4. Peace – Gal 5:22; Phil 4:5-7                    |
| 2. Joy – Gal 5:22; Rom 15:13       | 5. Hope – 1 Cor 13:5; Rom 5:5; 15:13               |
| 3. Gratitude – Col 3:16            | 6. Contentment – Phil 4:11-12; 1 Tim 6:6; Heb 13:5 |

### Grow Your Speech

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|--|--|
| 1. Not malicious talkers or gossips – 1 Tim 3:11 | 7. Not harsh – Prov 15:1                         |
| 2. Not quarrelsome – 1 Tim 3:3; 2 Tim 2:24       | 8. No foolish talk or coarse joking – Eph 5:4    |
| 3. Not slanderous – Col 3:8; Eph 4:31            | 9. No arguing – Phi 2:14                         |
| 4. No foul language – Col 3:8; Eph 5:4           | 10. Honesty & integrity – Lev 19:11              |
| 5. No complaining – Phi 2:14                     | 11. Soft answers or responses – Prov 15:1        |
| 6. Not boastful – 1 Cor 13:4                     | 12. Edifying, gracious words – Col 4:6; Eph 4:29 |

### Grow Your Behaviors

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|--|---|
| 1. Sexual purity – Col 3:5; Eph 5:3; Job 31:1                        | 15. Anger/rage – 1 Cor 13:5; Col 3:8; Eph 4:31                          |
| 2. Patience – Gal 5:22; 1 Cor 13:4; Col 3:12                         | 16. Self-discipline – 2 Tim 1:7   |
| 3. Kindness – Gal 5:22; 2 Pet 1:7;<br>1 Cor 13:4; Col 3:12; Eph 4:32 | 17. Perseverance – 2 Pet 1:6  |
| 4. Goodness – Gal 5:22; 2 Pet 1:5                                    | 18. Not envious – 1 Cor 13:4  |
| 5. Faithfulness – Gal 5:22   | 19. Not proud – 1 Cor 13:4  |
| 6. Gentleness – Gal 5:23; Col 3:12                                   | 20. Not rude – 1 Cor 13:5   |
| 7. Compassion – Col 3:12; Eph 4:32                                   | 21. Not self-seeking – 1 Cor 13:5                                       |
| 8. Humility – Col 3:12   | 22. Does not keep record of wrong – 1 Cor 13:5                          |
| 9. Forgiving – Col 3:13; Eph 4:32                                    | 23. Always protects – 1 Cor 13:6  |
| 10. Boldness – Phil 1:14; 2 Cor 3:12                                 | 24. Always trusts – 1 Cor 13:6  |
| 11. Courage – 1 Cor 16:13; 2 Cor 5:6,8; Josh 1:9                     | 25. Hospitable – 1 Tim 3:2  |
| 12. Self-control – Gal 5:23; 2 Pet 1:6; 1 Tim 3:2                    | 26. Temperate – 1 Tim 3:2   |
| 13. Generosity – Gal 2:20; 2 Cor 9:5-15                              | 27. No drunkenness – 1 Tim 3:3,8  |
| 14. Love (God & people) – Matt 22:36-40                              | 28. Not a lover of money; dishonest gain; greedy – 1 Tim 3:3,8; Eph 5:3 |

### Grow Your Motivations

1. Praise of man or praise of God? – 1 Cor 3:13-15; cf. 1 Cor 4:5; Gal 1:10; 1 Thess 2:4
2. Envy, rivalry and selfish ambition, or love – Phil 1:14-17

### **Reasons to Grow Godly Character in Your Life**

1. Character makes us fruitful in this lifetime
2. Character affects the outcome of our prayers
3. Character keeps us from falling from the faith
4. Character qualifies us for ministry
5. Character helps us win the war against the devil
6. Character reveals Christ to others
7. Character determines our heavenly reward

### **Steps to Initiate Godly Character Growth in my own life.**

1. Choose a character trait
2. Pray daily for that trait
3. Continue to renew your mind by meditating on eternal things
4. Identify a time you failed, and listen in prayer for practical steps
5. Confess any bitterness or offense
6. Receive inner healing, deliverance & freedom from harmful family patterns
7. Tell someone and ask for their prayers
8. Be filled with the Holy Spirit
9. Learn & memorize Scripture about your trait
10. Keep in step with the Spirit (stop & choose correctly)

### **Praying for the development of your child(ren)'s character by focusing on TIME with them, PRAYING for them and instilling the FEAR of the Lord in them.**

1. Choose a Character Trait
2. Read the Scripture with your child that corresponds with it.
3. Spend time talking about the character trait with your child.
4. Take time to explain WHAT the character trait is and WHY it is needed in their lives.
5. Help your child understand that God loves them and is more concerned about who they become than what they do. Teach them what it means to Fear the Lord.
6. Pray daily for that character trait to be developed in your child.
7. Pray with your child asking Jesus to help instill the character trait in their life.
8. Ask Jesus to show you ways to instill that trait in their hearts and minds.
9. Journal your prayers for your child and revisit them often.
10. Thank God and intentionally give your child(ren) every day to Him celebrating that God is making them more and more like Him.