

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: **THE GOOD BOOK - Part 3**

How Do I Apply the Bible

October 2, 2016



Connect (10-15min)

Open in Prayer

***Option 1: Our Stories** -- Have 2-3 people share the 'coles-notes' version of their story (5-7min each).

[I was born in _____. I grew up in _____. My family growing up was _____ (parents/siblings...). I first heard about Jesus through _____. I became a Christian _____. My family now is _____ (single, married, kids...). For work/school I _____.]

For fun or to relax & recharge I like to _____.]

***Option 2** (for returning/full groups from last season): **What is 1 thing we don't know about you yet?**

Check-In (5-10min)

***Where have you been reading in the Bible this past week?** (eg. Reading Plan or Otherwise)

What are 1 or 2 things you learned, or that challenged you, or that encouraged you?

***What is 1 thing/area that you've been praying about or for in your personal relationship with God?**

What is 1 way He has spoken to you or answered you in through these prayers?

Sunday Message Feedback (30min)

***Set Free Retreat is coming up, Oct.20-21 – Who has experienced this Retreat? Who is going?**

1. ***What impacted you from Sunday's message by Pastor Shawn?**

: What challenged or encouraged you, and why? : What can you apply to your faith & life this week? How?

2. **When you read the Bible to tend to lean towards reading the Old Testament or the New Testament?**

Discuss why.

3. **The Old Testament & Jesus. Read [Matthew 5:17-18](#)**

a. Does this verse teach that we don't have to follow or obey the commands in the Old Testament?

b. What do you think it means when it says that Jesus came to fulfill the law but not abolish it?

c. Pastor Shawn explained that the Old Testament law needs to be read and understood in light of its fulfillment in the New Testament. The Old Testament is the 'Bible' that Jesus grew up reading and teaching from. As an example he walked us through the story of the Passover in [Exodus 12](#) and explained how Jesus fulfilled it in [Luke 22:7-20](#) when he tells his disciples that that he is the final sacrifice (feel free to read these passages to get some context). Jesus was informing them that now He was the true sacrificial lamb for the Passover. That His death would now serve as the deliverance of God's people from their sins. That God was calling His people out of a deeper slavery than ever existed under the Egyptians – the very slavery of sin, into a new community in relationship with the living God. Through Jesus, the Passover has reached its ultimate fulfillment and celebration.

• **In light of this example can you see how the Old Testament points to Jesus?**

• How does Jesus fulfilling the law help us deal with the supposed contradictions people bring up regarding the Old and New Testament?

4. **Applying It** - When applying Scripture Shawn mentioned that we need to take into account the **culture** of the day.

If we are not careful we will allow culture to cloud the principle.

Shawn gave an example of this by reading [1 Timothy 2:9-10](#) – READ.

- a. **What is the principle that Paul wants to get across in this passage?** (MODESTY)
- b. How have people and churches missed the point and misapplied this passage?
 - (Some churches ignore the cultural context and believe that women can't come to church with braided hair **OR** they only look at the cultural context and ignore the principle of modesty.)
 - To properly apply this passage one has to clearly get what is meant to be the universal principle (modesty) and discard what is clearly its cultural application for that day.
 - Do you remember what the cultural issue of the day was? What issue did Shawn mention was a problem in Ephesus that would cause Paul to write this? (Have the group try to remember before reading the notes below).

In this passage about hair, what is to be lifted out for all time is modesty – but the unique application of Paul's day was the gold, jewelry and braided hair. And here's where a little bit of background study comes in handy. Paul was writing this particular letter to the pastor of the church in the city of Ephesus. That's where the pagan temple for the goddess Diana was, and it was filled with temple prostitutes. And they dressed in a certain way to let people know they were prostitutes (braided hair, gold, pearls, and fancy clothes). If a woman came to church dressed looking like a prostitute, it would weaken the witness of the church in regard to holding to different values than the pagan temple. Not only that, but coming to worship dressed that provocatively would have been a little distracting, particularly for the men.

An astute reader of the Word will be able to differentiate between the cultural issues and the principle Scripture is teaching us.

- So when reading [1 Timothy 2:9-10](#) what do you think is the application for us today?

5. It's really not difficult to understand how we should apply the Bible in our lives.

** [The real issues is not Application, but Practice.](#)*

If I am going to practice what the Bible tells me to apply it means a surrendering of my will which means I probably am going to have to change some things and change is something most of us try to avoid.

>> Shawn walked through three games we play when we don't want to apply what the Bible says.

Read them out and then discuss which 'game' you may have been or are prone to playing in your own life when it comes to applying the Word of God:

- a. **The Cosmic Exception Clause** – *This is when a person knows what it means to apply what the Bible says in a particular area of life but tell themselves that "in my case it doesn't apply."*
- b. **The Buffet Dinner Approach** – *This is when a person picks what they want to apply and ignores what they don't like. They end up with comfortable insights and principles in areas like marriage and parenting but pass up and pass by the uncomfortable life changing applications on money or sex.*
- c. **The Compromised Position** – *These are the people who water down the clear teaching of the Bible by denying what it says simply because they don't like what it says.*

Application

Start or Continue *The Good Book Bible Reading Plan.

*Make a commitment as a group to use it in your personal devotional time and come each next week willing to share 1 example of what Jesus showed you, or how you have been challenged to APPLY/PRACTICE what you've learned.

***If you have questions or need assistance please ask your Life Group Leader or one of the Pastors.**

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Prayer (15min)

What is 1 specific way we can pray for you (personally) this week?

P.R.A.Y. -- Allow 3min for each aspect of Prayer (12min Total).

[Note: Silence is OK. Invite/Encourage everyone to participate as they feel comfortable.]

- Praise** : *Speak out words of praise & thanks to God for Who He Is & What He has Done...*
- Repent** : *Confess & Repent of any attitudes & actions...and receive His forgiveness*
- Ask** : *Ask specifically for your Needs and the Needs of Others in your Group*
- Yield** : *Surrender, Listen, Trust & Obey/Act*

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NEXT GROUP

Our next Life Group meeting will be at _____ and _____ will bring Snack.

We need 2 people to share their story (5min version) with us next time we meet 1. _____ 2. _____

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Coming Up at Main Street

October 9 (Thanksgiving Sunday)

SPECIAL OFFERING for our **Hunger to Hope Campaign**.

*Hunger to Hope is our annual Christmas Hamper Campaign. Our goal this season is to raise **\$30,000** to provide **100 Hampers** to families in need in our church and community (with special focus on McCammon & Central Elementary Schools).

October 20-21

SET FREE Retreat – Friday night & All-Day Saturday. Main Street Chapel.

Info & Registration: www.mainstreetchurch.ca/set-free

October 30

PRAYER SUMMIT – 6pm-7:30pm. Main Street Auditorium.

*Includes our Kids Summit (for ages 2-Gr.6)

Info & Registration: www.mainstreetchurch.ca/set-free

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