

# Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: **PARENTHOOD**

Message: **Part 4 – Pursuing the Prodigal**

October 6, 2019. Speaker: Shawn Vandop – Lead Pastor.



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

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

## \*ICEBREAKERS

- If you had to use 1 *Word, Emoji or Gif* to describe your day so far what would it be?
- What is 1 thing you are looking forward to in the month of October? What is 1 one of your favorite Fall activities?
- Using these 3 categories, what are 3 things that you are Thankful for today? (1 for each category)
  - \*Your Faith
  - \*Your Family/Friends
  - \*Your Work or Area of Service/Influence

## \*PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP

Respond to one or more of the following...

- >Where/how have you experienced God in and around your life this past week?
- >Share a highlight from your Bible Reading/Devotional Plan for the month of October.

\***PRAYER:** Have a someone read [Psalm 145](#) and another person open your Discussion Time in Prayer.

## Sunday Message Feedback (35-40min)

### 1. While Growing Up...

- Did you tend to follow the rules, go with the flow or push the boundaries?
- What was one area that you and your parents went back and forth on while you grew up in their home?

### 2. Read [Luke 15:11-32](#) &/or Watch this passage/parable on [LUMO Project Gospel of Luke 15:11-32](#) (YouTube-4min.).

- How do you initially connect with each of the main characters: The Father, the Younger Son, the Older Brother?
- What is the root of the younger son's rebellion?  
What areas in your life can you lean towards being rebellious?
- What is the root/motive of the older brother's response to his father and younger brother?  
How was he rebellious or religious towards his father? How have you been like the older brother in life?

“Neither son loved the father for himself. They both were using the father for their own self-centered ends rather than loving, enjoying, and serving him for his own sake. This means that you can rebel against God and be alienated from him either by breaking his rules or by keeping all of them diligently. It's a shocking message: Careful obedience to God's law may serve as a strategy for rebelling against God.” – Timothy Keller.

- What do we learn about the Father in this story? Read [Psalm 145:8-9](#) and [1 Corinthians 13:4-7](#).
  - \*How does the father in the parable line up with these descriptions of love?
  - \*What does Jesus teach us about Father God through him?
- When dealing with people, are you a “fix it” person or a “let them struggle to fix it” person?  
What are the positives and negatives of both?

3. **Point from Sunday:** When our children rebel, we should *pray, don't burn bridges* (express your love), and *wait*. Which of these three instructions are the hardest for you to demonstrate?
  - a. Do you agree with this statement? "**Rules without relationship equals rebellion.**" Discuss.
  - b. When are the best times to shape the will without breaking the spirit?
  - c. When your child/relative/friend comes back into relationship, is it hard for you to grant forgiveness and show grace?
  
4. Read [Luke 19:10](#) "...seek & save the lost." & [John 10:10](#) – "The thief's purpose is to steal, kill & destroy." Shawn stated that "**Satan hates your kids. If he can't get to you, he will try to get to them.**"
  - a. How does this statement move you?
  - b. How can parents respond, knowing Satan is on attack?
  
5. Read [Proverbs 3:1-6](#)
  - a. List the blessings found in these verses.
  - b. How are we instructed to teach these truths?
  - c. As a group - share ways you can live out & teach others these truths (including your children).

### Application (15min)

**\*PARENTHOOD Recap:** As we wrap up our *PARENTHOOD* series, what would say the highlights, challenges or applications are for you moving forward?

**\*Read through Luke 15 this week & memorize [Luke 15:31-32](#).**

**\*Bonus Resource:** Read [The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith](#), by Timothy Keller.

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

### Prayer (20min)

**\*Read [Psalm 32](#); [Ephesians 6:18](#) & [1 Timothy 2:1](#)**

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

"Based on the Scriptures & Discussion how can we Pray for you this week?" – Pray for One Another.

## Announcements

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

### Childcare Reimbursement

Parents, Reimbursement for Childcare to attend Life Group is available through the Church.

Rate: \$10/hr for up to 3hrs per week. This also available for parents who attend other Church events like Hearing God, or Set Free Retreat... Forms available through Guest Services, the Church Office or Pastor Eryn.

Please submit your forms at the end of each month for reimbursement.

### Set Free Retreat

**October 18-19.** Friday 5:30pm-9pm / Saturday 9am-6:30pm. At Main Street Church.

\$40 – Includes refreshments, lunch & dinner on Sat., your Set Free Booklet. Financial assistance available upon request.

Register & Pay online or through the Church Office: [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.

Cost: \$25 Includes the Course Booklet/Journal and refreshments, or \$10 without the booklet/journal.

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

### Christmas HOPE Campaign 2019

The Special Offering for our annual *Christmas Hope Campaign* is coming up on **Sun. October 27<sup>th</sup>**.

We raised over \$100,000 last year and our goal is once again \$100,000. Stay tuned for more information.

### Empower Retreat

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