

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: **ROOTS** :: **Part 5 – Perseverance**. February 14, 2016



Welcome & Prayer

* Father God, we bless You and thank You for this day, and for the fresh opportunities and challenges that this week will bring. Thank You that Your mercies are new every morning, I pray that we will learn & choose to walk faithfully with You in thought, word and deed...demonstrating a Christ-like attitude to all we come in contact. Keep our hearts focused and trusting You Lord. Help us not to function in our own strength, but in the power of your Holy Spirit. May we stand firm in the truth and grace of Jesus - trusting in Him to supply His sufficient strength for all occasions. This life is full of hard challenges and choices, but we know that you are with us Lord. May we persevere and may Your will be done, Amen.

Connect

* **Sometime perseverance can seem like a fictional superpower...**

More superhero movies are coming out this year...if you could have any 1 superpower for this upcoming week (for just one week), what would it be, and why?

Check In

* **The Pray First challenge is over, so what is your desire & plan for connecting with Jesus this coming week/month...?**

How can we encourage or assist with that? (ideas/resources, accountability, prayer support...)

Sunday Message Feedback

* **What jumped out at you or impacted you from Sunday's message?**

1. If you were asked to give a definition of perseverance how would you define it?
(no 'googling' – just use your own words ☺)

2. READ 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 and Philippians 2:14-16.

Why does the Bible describe the Christian life as a long distance race rather than a short sprint?
Discuss.

3. READ Hebrews 12:1-2

* What gets in the way or has gotten in the way of you running your race (living your life) successfully? Discuss.

4. READ 2 Timothy 4:1-8 and then **read verses 6** and **7** again.

Shawn talked about three things that Paul teaches us how to live a life of perseverance:

Fight good fights, Finish What You Started, and Stay Faithful.

a. Fight Good Fights:

- i. Have you ever been in a fight? What was the reason?
- ii. Have you ever been in a fight that you would describe as good? Why?
What made it a good fight?

iii. How do “good fights” keep us moving forward?

b. Finish What You Started:

i. Can you think of anything in your life that you started but never finished? Why did you not finish? Share.

ii. **Read James 1:2-4**

iii. Is it possible to learn perseverance without hardship, pain or struggle? Why/why not? Discuss.

iv. How has hardship taught you perseverance in your life? Share.

c. Stay Faithful:

i. To remain faithful is to finish well. Is it possible to finish well and at the same time make some mistakes along the way?

ii. How do you keep from letting your failures and stumbles stop you from finishing well (staying faithful)?

iii. How has God used perseverance to make you more like Him and to strengthen your faith? Discuss.

Application & Prayer

We’re going to read the following passages of Scripture and then take 3min of quiet reflection to personally ask Jesus this question in silent prayer:

‘Jesus – where in my life do you want me to persevere so that I become more rooted in You?’

READ Romans 8:31-39 & John 16:33

(These verses promises us that we cannot be separated from God’s love and that we are victorious conquerors in Christ. However, the key to living a victorious life is a commitment to endurance and perseverance.)

* Where in your life do you believe Jesus wants you to persevere, and become more rooted in Him?

* Use what group members share as a focus of prayer for one another.

(For example: pray for the person on your right...)

“Jesus, I thank you for _____ . You know everything about them, everything they’re facing in life, and you LOVE them. FILL them with your Holy Spirit - blessing them with your presence, your strength, your hope & wisdom this week, as they persevere in _____, Amen.

Coming Up at Main Street Church

***PARTNERSHIP CLASS** (New) – **Sunday, March 6 – 6pm.**

Partnership Classes – designed and provided specifically for people in our church who are interested in learning about what Church Partnership (membership) means at Main Street, and who are considering making the commitment to partner/invest with us. *Please RSVP.