

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: **PRAY FIRST 2020**

Message: **Part 4 – & Forgive Us Our Sins as We Have Forgiven**

January 26, 2020. Speaker: Shawn Vandop – Lead Pastor



Connect (15min) – share refreshments.

**“God knows that without risk we can’t grow. He didn’t promise us a safe life, but said He would give us a dangerous, engaged and courageous one if we’ll take Him at His word.” – Bob Goff.*

***Split into groups of 3-4 (or men/women)**

- Share 1 or 2 ways that Life challenged you in January by requiring risk, faith or courage.
- How did you engage, experience or need God through that experience?
- What is one challenge or opportunity ahead in February that you would like prayer for today?
- Read [Psalm 56:3-4](#). > Pray for the person on your right.

Pray First 2020 (10min)

January 6-26, 2019

***Share any Feedback, Answered Prayer, Highlights, something Learned or Changed through your PrayFirst experience.**

***With PRAY FIRST completed...Do you have any devotion plans (reading/prayer/journaling) for February?**

- consider your opportunity with Jesus for February and make a plan this week.
- how can we assist, encourage or pray for one another in this endeavor?

Sunday Message Discussion (35-40min)

1. Lord, Teach Us to Pray – *The Lord’s Prayer*.

***Option:** Listen to [The Lord’s Prayer \(Acoustic\) – Hillsong Worship](#) as a moment of reflection & preparation.

***Read [Matthew 6:9-13](#).** > Now, read [verse 12](#) again.

2. Our Culture of Credit & Debt

a. Take 2mins as a group to share some positives and negatives of the *Credit Culture* we live in.

b. For good or bad - What are 1-2 ways that *Credit & Debt* affect your daily life?

Share an example of when you were tempted to use or abuse credit. (e.g. credit card)

c. Most people currently have, did have, or will have some form of personal debt.

How do you generally feel when you owe someone something? *Financially or otherwise.*

3. Hot Topics: Debt & Forgiveness

God addresses the topics of Debt & Forgiveness a ton in the Bible.

a. Would you rather need & ask for forgiveness – or – offer forgiveness to another person?

(if the offense/debt was the same in both options)

b. What are the challenges and opportunities in either situation? - forgiving or being forgiven.

4. Read [Matthew 6:12](#) (again) and then [Matthew 18:15-35](#)
- What is your initial observation and response to Jesus' teaching on *forgiveness*?
- How do think it was received in that culture and context?
 - Forgiveness had a limit in Jesus' day. Offenders were forgiven up to three times; a fourth offense need not be forgiven. What does Jesus' answer say about forgiveness for those who claim to follow Him?
 - When you personally think about forgiveness which lens do you tend to see it through:
something you give or something you need? In other words, do you see forgiveness as something you primarily give to other people or something that you primarily need for yourself? Discuss.
 - How does the parable of the unmerciful servant extend Jesus' teaching on forgiveness (**vv. 23-35**)?
In refusing to be merciful to others, what do we deny ourselves (**vv. 31-34**)?
 - How does Jesus' point in **verse 35** compare with **Matt. 6:12**?
Do we forgive others so that God will forgive us...
or does God forgive us so that we will have a forgiving attitude?
 - Why do you think *forgiveness* is a key component of Christ's teaching on how to Pray?
How could this impact our daily prayer life?
5.
 - Based on this parable -- Is God's forgiveness for us limited or unlimited? Conditional or unconditional?
Likewise, what our forgiveness of others
 - Does forgiving someone mean that the offense is forgotten and has no further consequences?
 - How can we forgive someone from the distant past who hurt us deeply?
 - Do you think there is a connection between forgiveness, health and wholeness? Discuss.

Application & Prayer (15min)

*Sign up for the next **SET FREE Retreat** at Main Street Church – [April 3-4](#). Forgiveness is a key component covered there. Leaders and veterans of Set Free can briefly share their experience from Set Free if they like.

1. Listening Prayer: Take 2mins of quiet personal prayer to ask Jesus...
"Lord, are there any offenses that I am holding in my heart? Whose debt do I need to cancel?" Listen & write down.

2. Hand out the Prayer of Forgiveness (on p.3) to your group (**you will need to print off copies**).
> Encourage each person to walk through that prayer silently for a moment (2-3mins).
>Then read it together out loud and pause at the places allowing each person to silently fill in the blanks.

3. Pray for encouragement, freedom and victory in each other's lives.

A Prayer of Forgiveness

*Father God, I choose, as an act of my will, to forgive (name) _____ for _____ (specific offense.)
Father, I ask that you forgive them as well; and not hold these charges against him/her on my account.*

*Heavenly Father, if there are any more stored up negative feelings in me toward _____, I ask that you
cleanse me. I will be open to replace these negative emotions with the fruit of your Holy Spirit.*

*Father, Your Holy Word tells us that we overcome Satan by the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ, and the word of
our testimony. I now plead the blood of Jesus over this offense and over my unforgiveness. Lord, do not allow
Satan to interfere with my testimony.*

*Heavenly Father, I ask that you help me regain the ground that I gave up when I held onto these offenses.
I ask that you take back this ground and no longer allow Satan to operate there. Give me wisdom to deal with
this situation in the future.*

*Father, I ask that you heal now the wounded places in my soul. Heal my memory of those offenses so that I
can look back on them realistically, knowing that You have healed me. Now Father, I ask that you bless
_____ (name) with Your abundant mercy.*

Bless him/her in every way: body, soul, and spirit. In JESUS' NAME, AMEN.

Announcements

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

>> Plan to share Communion as a Life Group in one of your meetings in February.

MAIN STREET WOMEN: *Breathe* - Worship Night

*Sat. February 1st. 7pm-9pm. Chapel.

NEW MEN'S MORNING LIFE GROUP – *Starting in February.*

*Wednesdays. 9:30am-11am. Promontory. Leader – Darren Johnston.

Contact Darren or Pastor Eryn to get connected.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION NIGHT

*Fri. February 7th. 7pm-9pm – Auditorium. Ages 12+ (no childcare provided). [Please RSVP](#).

Anyone who served as a Volunteer with Main Street Church in 2019 is encouraged to join us for a fun night of celebration, laughter and refreshments. Our special guests are [The Panic Squad](#) – with their Improv Comedy. Encouraged Church Volunteers from your Life Group to attend.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

*Please request the current list of [Serving Opportunities](#) from your Life Group Leader, or Pastor Eryn Moore.

BAPTISM SUNDAY

*Sun. March 1st. Morning Services. Info & Registration – www.mainstreetchurch.ca/baptism.

PARTNERSHIP CLASS

*Sun. March 1st. 6pm-8pm. Chapel. Coffee/Tea, Dessert & Childcare Provided.

If you have attended our Next Steps class and would like to learn more about partnering with us at Main Street Church please join us. *Partnership is required for those in leadership positions.*

Info & Registration – www.mainstreetchurch.ca/partnership

Apologetics Canada Conference 2020

*March 6-7. Northview Church, Abbotsford.

Apologetics Canada helps Christians speak the language of our culture and address questions being asked with intellectual honesty, gentleness, and respect.

Info & Registration: <https://apologeticscanada.com/apologetics-canada-conference-2020>

Weekly Announcements Email

Consider the [Weekly Announcement Email](#) from Main Street Church. Contact our Office to be added to the mailing list. It's another great way to stay informed and engaged in the life of our church.