

WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU READ

TODAY'S TEXT  [Isaiah 55:11](#); [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#); [Hebrews 4:12-14](#)

NOTES:

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: The Grand Story

Message: What To Know Before You Read

Speaker: Shawn Vandop

Date: September 17, 2023



Connect (30min)

1. Welcome to Life Group

We hope that our group will be key place of connection, encouragement, learning and prayer for everyone this season. We look forward to getting to know everyone better.

We are committing to meet weekly (3-4 times/month) for this fall season, September until the Christmas break. We will be primarily discussing and digging deeper into the topics and Scripture from Sunday Messages, and we will give time to sharing our stories (highlights & struggles) and prayer for one another.

*We commit to starting on time (__:__ am/pm) and ending on time (__:__ am/pm) each week.

*Please let us know in advance if you are not able to attend a meeting.

*Discuss any specific Group meeting details (contact info, day/time, location, refreshment rotation).

*Bring your Bible each week. We primarily use the NLT version in our messages & guides.

*The *Discussion Guides* are available online with each message.


2. Introductions

a. Share your Names, 1 Highlight from the Summer & 1 Opportunity you are looking forward to this Fall.

b. Think of a *Key Person*, a *Key Place* and a *Key Event* from your Life and share together.

**A Key Person has been... *A Key Event has been... *A Key Place has been...*

3. Group Blessing

Leaders --  Read [Hebrews 10:23-25](#) and Pray for your Life Group as you begin this season together.

Message Discussion (30min)

1. Story People

"The way we understand human life depends on what conception we have of the human story."

- Craig G. Bartholomew

a. **Humans LOVE Stories** -- from childhood to our twilight years, through books, movies, live theatre, songs and campfire tales... we are powerfully informed and affected by *stories*.

Think of two of your favorite *Stories* (other than from the Bible) – one from a Book and one Movie/Film – and one way each story has influenced your life. Share with the group.




b. **Why do you think Stories are such a key part of the human experience?**

2. The Grand Story

“We come to Scripture not to learn a subject but to steep ourselves in a person.” – C.S. Lewis

- a. Have you ever thought of the Bible as *One BIG Story*? Explain why...
- b. Why do you think God chose to use a Book as a primary way of [revealing](#) Himself and His *Grand Story*?
- c. What is one of your favorite Bible stories and one reason why it connects with you?
- d. What is one thing you love about reading the Bible and one thing that frustrates you about reading it?
- e. What are some reasons why many people find reading the Bible frustrating?
- f. Shawn summarized the Bible in one sentence. Does anyone remember what it was?
{“The Bible tells a story about Jesus and His Kingdom!”}

3. Word Up! Read the following verses one at a time and then answer the following question:

- a.  [Isaiah 55:11](#)
 - i. What does this verse teach us about the Word of God?
 - ii. How has this verse been true in your own life?
- b.  [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)
 - i. What does this verse teach us about the Word of God?
 - ii. How has this verse been true in your own life?
- c.  [Hebrews 4:12-14](#)
 - i. What does this verse teach us about the Word of God?
 - ii. How has this verse been true in your own life?

4. Engage The Story

- a. How can we encourage you and one another to read our Bibles this season?
- b. Do you have a Bible that’s readable (large enough font)? Which translation? NLT, NIV, ESV, KJV...
Do you primarily use a printed Bible, audio Bible, or a Bible App on a device?
- c. Set a consistent daily time & place to have an appointment with Jesus and His Word.
Example: Read the Gospel of John, 1 chapter a day for 21 days, 15mins to read & pray.
- d. If you need ideas, resources or accountability let us know. Check out:
 - * www.youversion.com/the-bible-app
 - * www.youtube.com/@bibleproject
 - * www.biblegateway.com
 - * www.openbible.info/topics

Prayer (15min)

Share and pray as a large group, or break into smaller groups (Men/Women or groups of 3-4).

***In response to the message, scripture and discussion – how can we pray for you (personally)?**

God’s Power – Provision – Protection – Presence - Peace

***Who is one person in your life who we can pray for?**

God’s Power – Provision – Protection – Presence - Peace