

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: **LIGHT & DARK**

Part 1

October 23, 2016



Connect (10min)

Read [Ephesians 6:10-18](#) & Open in **Prayer**

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

***Option 2: What is 1 Thing you are Thankful for today? 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. Good Book Reading Plan or Other)

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 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 (30-40min)

1. Candy Bowl

If there was a big bowl of all the usual Halloween candy/treats, which 1 would pick out first?

2. 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?

3. **Have you ever considered that your relationship with God would be challenged by an enemy?**

What is your view of the Devil? How do you, or have you pictured him?

*The Old & New Testament, and Jesus Himself, make it abundantly clear that the spiritual realm is real, including the Devil, and angelic forces of darkness & light. There is a spiritual battle, and we are in the midst of it whether we realize it or not.

4. Read [Isaiah 14:12-14](#) and [Revelation 12:7-9](#). What do these Scriptures tell us about the Devil?

Jesus tells us that **"the thief comes to steal, kill and destroy"** ([John 10:10](#)). How have you seen this truth in your life or those around you? What does the Devil steal, kill and destroy.

Read [Acts 26:18](#) - What is a key component of Jesus' mission for the Apostle Paul at his conversion?

5. Read [1 Peter 5:8](#)

What does this verse tell you about the devil? How do you "stay alert" to his attacks and lies?

Do you have a strategy? Discuss...

6. Read [Genesis 3:1-7](#)

- a. Shawn showed us that the enemy has different strategies that he uses to get our focus off God. As we read them consider which one connects with your journey the most.
- **He gets you to drift away by being subtle. (Genesis 3:1)**
Devil never deals with the obvious – he is always subtle.
 - **He twists the voice and the Word of God (Genesis 3:1)**
Did God really say that?...
 - **He asks the wrong questions rather than the right questions (Genesis 3:1)**
He knows how to ask a question that will cause you to doubt or even blame God.
 - **He gets us talking with him (Genesis 3:2-3)**
Even engaged the serpent in a conversation and things went bad.
 - **He will get you to focus on many things rather than the ONE thing (Genesis 3:1)**
God will always put His finger on the one thing in your life that hinders your relationship with Him.
- b. **Which of these strategies has the Devil been successful in using in your life?**
Which one do you identify with most? Why?

7. Read [John 8:44](#)

- a. What terms does Jesus use to describe the Devil in this passage of Scripture?
b. How would you define the “father of lies”? What does that phrase mean to you?

8. Read [John 17:15-19](#)

What does this prayer of Jesus teach us about being free from the strategies and strongholds of the Devil?

Application

Our Hearing God Workshop & Set Free Retreats are part of the equipping & experience we encourage you to have because they help prepare us for life and ministry in this world.

-- To grow stronger in our relationship with Jesus (hearing and obeying His voice), and to be able to deal effectively with ‘our stuff’ and the lies and strategies of the devil.

The following are 3 of our Values at Main Street Church (see on our auditorium walls...).

Our Life Groups are a key place to apply all of this, and to find strength and support through one another.

How can we apply these values in our lives this week?

We will intentionally listen to the voice of God

> *We recognize that the voice we listen to the most will determine the direction of our life*

We will keep short accounts

> *The greatest weapon we have against the Devil is repentance and confession*

We will be relentless with truth and grace

> *We will teach and model the hard truths of Jesus*

so that we can experience and model the deep grace of Jesus

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Prayer (15-20min) – PRAISE GOD – THANK GOD – ASK GOD

As a Group - Take 5-10min to pray short-sentence prayers together. Use these short examples...

FATHER GOD we PRAISE YOU because...

JESUS we THANK YOU for...

Pray for One Another – In response to our discussion/topic how can we pray you personally?

HOLY SPIRIT we ASK YOU to...

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Coming Up

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. _____

October 30

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

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

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Resources (Click on the links)

Scripture References:

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/satan>

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/darkness>

https://www.openbible.info/topics/darkness_and_light

https://www.openbible.info/topics/spiritual_warfare

GotQuestions.org

[Topic: Satan](#)

OneMinuteApologist – Videos

[What kind of power does Satan have?](#)

[What about spiritual warfare?](#)

RZIM – Videos

[Who is responsible for evil?](#)

[How can a good God allow evil in the world?](#)

Books

[The Screwtape Letters – C.S. Lewis](#)