

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: *Tell Me a Story* Message: **Part 1 – The Wheat & Weeds**

October 29, 2017



Connect & Check-In (20min)

*Welcome & Opening Prayer

> Invite 1 Group Member to open in Prayer.

*ICEBREAKER

> What is 1 thing you are Thankful for from October? What is 1 thing you are looking forward to in November?

*CHECK-IN

1 Thessalonians 5:11 instructs Christ-Followers to *encourage one another & build one another up*.

: One of the ways we can do this in Life Group is by encouraging one another in our personal/devoted time with God.

- sharing our learning, experiences & struggles from this key area of our lives.

*Would 1-2 people be willing to share 1 thing they've learned/experienced with God this past week?

Sunday Message Feedback (40min)

*Speaker: Pastor Shawn Vandop.

1. **BEST BOOK EVER!** (Besides the Bible) What is the best book you have ever read, and why?

2. **Sunday Message Feedback**

What is 1 thing that impacted you from Sunday's Message?

3. **Do you have a favorite Parable from Jesus?** Why is this parable your favorite?

4. **Parables 101** – Pastor Shawn set the foundation for how to read and understand Jesus Parables.

a. They illustrate a central truth about the Kingdom of God.

b. They don't stand alone. (meaning we must understand them in the context of Scripture)

c. Their primary purpose was to both conceal and reveal.

*How does these foundational truths help or change the way you read and understand Parables?

5. Have you ever been duped and thought that whatever you had bought (or got) was genuine, when in fact it was a knock-off? Explain.

6. **READ Matthew 13:24-43 – Parable of The Wheat & Weeds**

a. How do you understand this parable? Discuss.

Who is the farmer?

Who is the farmer's enemy?

Who is the field?

Who is the seed?

b. Why does the farmer tell the workers not to pull out the Tares (weeds) until harvest time?

What is the implication/application of these instructions for us today?

7. FAKE & REAL

- a. What is the difference between a false/fake Christian and the real thing?
- b. Does this parable imply that we should never speak truth or make a judgement about how others live? Can a Christian make judgments? If so, what did Pastor Shawn say about this issue?

(We are allowed to make judgements but we are not called to bring or heap on condemnation...).

- c. Pastor Shawn talked about how **we can easily confuse hypocrisy with humanity.**

The fact is we will sin and we will all fall short (Romans 3:23). This is not what Jesus is talking about in this parable. He is talking about a phony, a fake, a poser, a Pharisee. People who do not have a genuine faith in the grace & truth of Jesus Christ. There are a lot of people who are imitating and it is up to God to decide who is real and who isn't. How can we confuse hypocrisy with humanity? Have you ever failed to give grace to a brother or sister in Christ and wrote them off because you labelled them a hypocrite? How can we avoid confusing hypocrisy and humanity?

8. READ [Revelation 3:14-22](#)

- a. What does it mean to be a lukewarm Christian? Discuss.

NOTE: *Shawn mentioned that many see a lukewarm Christian as a carnal or compromising Christian.*

However, God sees lukewarmness as a fake Christian. We all make compromise at times in our relationship with God, but Jesus is calling us from 'fake to faithful'. He is calling out those who are pretending to follow Him.

**Take note that Jesus is giving these words to a church and addressing the fake believers in it.*

- b. One of the implications of the parable of the "weeds in the wheat" is that there will always be a presence of evil in the world. People who will pretend they love God but are bent on misleading people. The good news is that this evil will be completely removed at the end of this age. How could the following passages help you face the evil that still resides in our world today? Discuss.

READ [Ephesians 6:10-20](#)

READ [Galatians 5:13-26](#)

Application & Prayer (20min)

REFLECT:

*Is there any area of your life where you are struggling to be genuine in your relationship with God?

*Where are you struggling with hypocrisy in your life or heart?

*How can we encourage one another to become more genuine in our faith and living as followers of Christ?

> **Discuss and then PRAY for one another.**

Bonus Resources (click the links below)

Challenge: Read through the [PARABLES of JESUS in November](#). (see attached list)

Book: [The Parables Of Jesus: A Guide to Understanding and Applying the Stories Jesus Taught](#). - R.T. Kendall

Announcements

OUR NEXT LIFE GROUP MTG

Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____ Snack: _____

BAPTISM SUNDAY

Sun. November 19. Both Morning Services.

*Info & Registration: www.mainstreetchurch.ca/baptism

NEXT STEPS

Sun. November 19. 12:15pm-1:30pm. Conference Rm. A. Childcare & Lunch provided.

*Info & Registration: www.mainstreetchurch.ca/next-steps

PRAYER SUMMIT

Sun. November 26. 6pm-7:30pm. Main Street Chapel.

*Worship-Prayer-Communion

CHRISTMAS TALES – Outreach Event

Fri. December 15. 7pm – Main Street Church Auditorium. Tickets are \$15 (or \$90 to reserve a table of six).

Includes coffee/tea & Homemade Pie! Seating is limited and tickets will sell fast.

Available at Guest Services on Sunday or through the Church Office (Mon-Thurs).

CHRISTMAS HOPE D-DAY

Delivery Day for 100+ Hampers! Fri. December 16. 9am-12pm.

The parables of Jesus embody much of his fundamental teaching. They are quite simple, memorable stories, often with humble imagery, and a focused message. Jesus' parables were often surprising and paradoxical. The parables were simple and memorable enough to survive in an oral tradition before being written down.

Parables of Jesus in Chronological Order				
	Parable	Matthew	Mark	Luke
1	New cloth on an old coat	9:16	2:21	5:36
2	New wine in old wineskins	9:17	2:22	5:37-38
3	Lamp on a stand (also see #6)	5:14-15		
4	Wise and foolish builders	7:24-27		6:47-49
5	Moneylender forgives unequal debts			7:41-43
6	Lamp on a stand (2 nd time, see #3)		4:21-22	8:16, 11:33
7	Rich man foolishly builds bigger bams			12:16-21
8	Servants must remain watchful (also see #44)			12:35-40
9	Wise and foolish servants (also see #42)			12:42-48
10	Unfruitful fig tree			13:6-9
11	Sower and four types of soil	13:3-8, 18-23	4:3-8, 14-20	8:5-8, 11-15
12	Weeds among good plants (Kingdom of Heaven)	13:24-30, 36-43		
13	Growing seed (Kingdom of Heaven)		4:26-29	
14	Mustard seed (Kingdom of Heaven)	13:31-32	4:30-32	13:18-19
15	Yeast (Kingdom of Heaven)	13:33		13:20-21
16	Hidden treasure (Kingdom of Heaven)	13:44		
17	Valuable pearl (Kingdom of Heaven)	13:45-46		
18	Fishing net (Kingdom of Heaven)	13:47-50		
19	Owner of a house (Kingdom of Heaven)	13:52		
20	Lost sheep (sheep as children, also see #29)	18:12-14		
21	The sheep, gate, and shepherd	(John 10:1-5, 7-18)		
22	Master and his servant			17:7-10
23	Unmerciful servant (Kingdom of Heaven)	18:23-34		
24	Good Samaritan			10:30-37
25	Friend in need			11:5-8
26	Lowest seat at the feast			14:7-14
27	Invitation to a great banquet			14:16-24
28	Cost of discipleship			14:28-33
29	Lost sheep (sheep as sinners, also see #20)			15:4-7
30	Lost coin			15:8-10
31	Lost (prodigal) son			15:11-32
32	Shrewd manager			16:1-8
33	Rich man and Lazarus			16:19-31
34	Workers in the vineyard, early and late	20:1-16		
35	Persistent widow and crooked judge			18:2-8
36	Pharisee and tax collector			18:10-14
37	King's ten servants given minas (also see #45)			19:12-27
38	Two sons, one obeys one does not	21:28-32		
39	Wicked tenants	21:33-44	12:1-11	20:9-18
40	Invitation to a wedding banquet	22:2-14		
41	Signs of the future from a fig tree	24:32-35	13:28-29	21:29-31
42	Wise and foolish servants (2 nd time, see #9)	24:45-51		
43	Wise and foolish virgins	25:1-13		
44	Servants must remain watchful (2 nd time, see #8)		13:35-37	
45	Three servants given talents (also see #37)	25:14-30		
46	Sheep and goats will be separated	25:31-46		