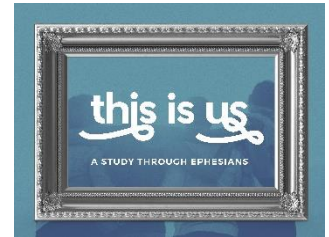


Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: *THIS IS US – A Study Through Ephesians*

Message: *Part 3 – Do You Understand?*

February 23, 2020. Speaker: Shawn Vandop – Lead Pastor



Connect (15min) – share refreshments.

1. **This Is Us...** *Besides Jesus, *One of my Heroes* in life is _____, and one of the reasons is _____.

2. **February Focus:** Split into groups of 3-4 (or men/women)

a. Share a *highlight from your Devotions* (reading/prayer) this past week:

- An encouragement, challenge, insight or focus...

b. Pray for One Another (in groups of 3-4) – Take 2min of quiet reflection to consider & pray about the following:

Your Faith, Family/Friends & Focus

i. What is one way that we can pray for your personal faith & relationship with God this week?

ii. What is one way that we can pray for your family/friends this week?

iii. What is one way that we can pray for your focus this week? (your work, school, ministry...)

*Share with your smaller group **and pray** for these three areas for the person on your right.

Sunday Message Discussion (35-40min)

1. **“Hey, I Know Stuff”**

a. What is something you “know stuff about” but have never actually experienced?

What is one other thing you “know stuff about” and would actually like to experience for real?

b. Who is one person that you “know a lot about” but have never had a relationship with?

2. **Knowledge & Knowing**

a. We all have questions and room to grow in our faith...

What are some areas of your Christian faith & practice that you have a hard time understanding?

b. Read [James 2:19](#).

How would you describe the difference between *knowing about God* and *knowing God*? Discuss.

c. Do you feel like you *know God* more than you did a year ago? How so...? What’s changed?

3. Read [Ephesians 1:15-18](#)

a. Is there anything in this passage of Scripture that jumps out at you, or that you don’t understand?

b. Why do you think Paul would pray this prayer for the believers in Ephesus?

c. Have you ever prayed and specifically asked God to give you understanding of His Word or a situation in your life? Discuss.

d. What are some results that might transpire if you began to pray this prayer for yourself and others?

4. **Getting to Know God**

The more time we spend with someone, the better we get to know them. For example, if we listed the character qualities of those closest to us, chances are you would be able to think back on your time with them and see how your understanding of who they are has grown. The same is true in how we grow in knowing God.

a. Consider the characteristics of God below -- which, if any, have you seen grow (or change) in your understanding and appreciation of who God is? Share your experience:

>> *Love, grace, forgiveness, kindness, peace, holiness, powerful, other...*

b. If you could have dinner with JESUS (physically face to face) what is one question that you would like to ask Him?

5. The HOPE We Have

How is *the Hope we have in God* (see [Ephesians 1:18](#)) different from the hope in people who don't know God? Is there a difference? Discuss.

6. The POWER of Intimacy & Experience - Read [Ephesians 1:19-23](#)

"Far too many people want a long-distance relationship with God, and only on the good days, at that. When it comes to suffering, we are a culture that seeks to avoid it at all costs. But then, these same people also want to have the resurrection power that comes from God. Yet without increased intimacy, there can be very little, or even no, supernatural intrusions in life. No breakthroughs. No comebacks. No witnessing heaven brought to bear on earth. None of that comes apart from intimacy with God. This is because His resurrection power is tied to knowing Him in spirit and in truth. It's not tied to just knowing Him from afar; it's tied to knowing Him closely." – Dr. Tony Evans.

- a. What is the greatest act of power you have ever witnessed or experienced?
- b. How would you describe God's power in your life? How has it been demonstrated to you?
- c. Knowing and understanding God's ultimate power in our life and world makes a big difference in how we live out the hope we have in following him. When we can't see God's power in a situation, we can easily become pessimistic or shortsighted. Consider the story in [2 Kings 6:8-17](#) (Elisha & the Angel Army):
– How does this encourage you to remember that God's power is active beyond what we know?
- d. When it comes to understanding and experiencing God's power in our lives how could applying the following verses help that come true for us? Read [Psalm 139:23-24](#) (Individually) and [Hebrews 10:24-25](#) (Together)
Both are important, but which of those scriptures (& applications) connects with your spiritual needs right now?

Application & Prayer (15min)

1. READ &/or LISTEN to Ephesians this week (20-25min).

2. PRAY: When we Pray we engage a supernatural opportunity to love God and love others. ([Mark 12:30-31](#))

***Seek Out Opportunities to Pray for and with the People around me.** (One of our 2020 Prayer Goals)

***Pray this Paraphrase of Paul's Prayer ([Ephesians 1:15-20](#)) >> for the Person on your right.**

*"JESUS, Thank you for _____. Thank you for their faith in the You and their love for others.
Father God, please give _____ Your spiritual wisdom and insight so that they might grow in their knowledge of Who You Are. I pray that their heart will be flooded with light so that they can understand the confident hope You have given to those You've called —Your holy people who are Your rich and glorious inheritance. I also pray that they will understand the incredible greatness of Your power for us who believe You. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor. Lord, may You have the highest place of honor in our lives this week – Amen!"*

3. Apply Paul's Prayer ([Ephesians 1:15-20](#)) for that person again this week.

Resources:

*YouTube: - [Overview: Ephesians. \(The Bible Project\)](#)

- [Background to the Book of Ephesians. \(The Beat by Allen Parr\)](#)

- [Alpha Film Series: Session 4 - How Can I Have Faith?](#)

- [The 7 Churches of Revelation \(Ephesus\) – It's Background](#)

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 March.

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 encouraged for everyone & required for those in leadership positions.*

Please register online or through the Church Office – www.mainstreetchurch.ca/partnership

Special Life Group Leaders Huddle [More Info & Invitation Coming Soon!] – Please Mark Your Calendars!

*Dave Enns – from [North Coast Church](#) in San Diego – will be our guest speaker. North Coast Church has an amazing Small Group Culture, with over 5000 adult group participants (90% of the church adults). Dave Enns has been a key staff member of NCC since 1990.

Two of the books we recommend for Life Groups Leaders – [Sticky Church](#) & [Lead Like A Shepherd](#) – come from NCC Lead Pastor, Larry Osborne.

*This event is for current and potential Life Group Leaders. If you are interested in leading a Life Group please join us.

*Wed. March 11th. 6pm-8pm. Main Street Chapel. Dinner & Childcare provided. Please RSVP to Pastor Eryn.

MAIN STREET MEN: MAN BREAKFAST

*Sat. March 14th. 8am-9:30am (Doors open at 7:30am). Conference Hall & Café.

*Tickets are available at Guest Services & the Church Office for \$5.

*Join us for an encouraging and fun morning with the guys, including a great breakfast.

NEW CHURCH OFFICE LOCATION

*As of Mon. February 24th - Our NEW Office & Expansion is open. Thank you for your investment and support.

The office is open Mon-Thur, 8:30am-4:30pm, with parking and entrance at the back of our building.

Our new mailing address is: 9325 Main St., Chilliwack, BC, V2P 4M3.

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.