

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: **PARENTHOOD**

Message: **Part 2 – Custom Made: Why One Size Parenting Doesn't Work**

*Speaker: Shawn Vandop – Lead Pastor.

September 22, 2019



Connect (20min) – share refreshments.

Option 1 - If this is your First Week of Meeting as a Life Group:

NEW Groups or Groups with NEW Members - Share the Following.

- Share your NAME
- How long have you lived in Chilliwack & how long have you attended Main Street Church?
- 3 KEY THINGS: 1 Key Person in your Life / 1 Key Place in your Life / 1 Key Event or Interest in your Life

ALL Groups

- Share 1-2 Highlights from your Summer.
- Share 1-2 things that you are looking forward to this Fall season?

CONFIRM the Details of your Life Group:

- Names & Contact Info (ph/email)
- Meeting Day/Time/Location
- Snack Rotation

Option 2 - If this is your 2nd or 3rd week together:

*If you have a larger group feel free to break into smaller groups of 3-4 people, or men/women.

- Share 1 Highlight or Challenge that you experience this past week.
- Take a moment to think of 3 Things that you are Thankful for today, then share with the group.

Sunday Message Feedback (35-40min)

- Parental Phrases:** What was a phrase or statement that you heard your parents say while growing up?
- Message Feedback:** A key part of healthy group life is making sure your group is getting to know each other and building good relationships. Break the ice by using a few of these questions to get your group started:
 - Custom Made:** Describe something in your life that was custom made for you or your family, or something that you made that was custom.
 - Where or How have you seen God move in/through your life this week? or Where would you like to see God move in/through your life this week?**
We encourage you to have a Bible and read your Bible throughout the week. There will be opportunity at Life Group to share about what we're reading and how it's impacting our lives each week.
 - What did you learn about God from the Sunday's Message this week?**
Do you remember the four points that Shawn shared?
 - Deal with your stuff first*
 - Be relationally strategic*
 - Fight for your kids*
 - Cling to God's Grace Desperately.**Which point connects with you or challenges you the most, and why?
- *The importance of PARENTHOOD applies to everyone in some way...**
We've had parents, are parents, are potentially parents, know parents, and have the opportunity to know our Heavenly Father as part of His eternal Family.

***The idea & importance of PARENTHOOD comes from GOD** and is deeply connected with His character, heart, and plans for humanity.

Read [Psalm 139:13-16](#) – Discuss how these verses make you feel about yourself and your value to God.

a. How could this verse be a help to your children, *or other children in your life*?

“The fact that Humans are given value by a Creator and a Purchaser (Redeemer) who is in the legitimate position to impute value to us is of utmost importance.” – Alex McElroy

b. Share one positive characteristic that you love about your child(ren), *or a child that’s close to you (family...)*.

4. Read [Genesis 25:19-28](#) and [Genesis 27:1-13](#)

a. What do you learn about Rebekah and Isaac’s relationship with their sons?

b. If you have children, what can you do to make sure your children know you like them and love them unconditionally?

c. Read [Proverbs 22:6](#) and [22:15](#).

What child rearing principle and promise do you see in these verses?

Does this general rule offer an absolute guarantee?

What kind of child have you proven to be to your Heavenly Father?

d. Depending on where you are in your parenting journey – what is one way you can pursue your child(ren) strategically?

e. Share what distracts you from being intentional and consistent in your kids’ lives?

5. Read [Proverbs 3:11-12](#) - Discipline Makes a Difference:

Looking back... what was the most successful form of discipline for you?

Did your parents discipline you differently from your siblings?

6. Discipleship at Home: Family is the primary place for the Gospel to be lived out, worked out and on display.

If we are going to disciple (our) kids to follow Jesus, we need to make sure **we** are following Jesus.

*How are you going to intentionally show others (including your kids) that you are a follower of Jesus?

Application (15min)

*Give each of your group members a piece of paper and ask them to write down 3 characteristics that they desire (or would desire) their child/children/grandchildren to have in their adult lives. Then go around the group and have people share. >> *Develop a plan for how you are going to share these truths with them.*

*Memorize [Proverbs 22:6](#) - *Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.*

*Check out the **Extra PARENTHOOD Resources** (p.4) for your own enrichment.

***PRAY for the Parents in your lives this week!**

Prayer (20min)

*Read/Say the Lord’s Prayer together: [Matthew 6:9-13](#)

*PRAY for One Another: Stay together as a group, or break into smaller groups for prayer.

“Based on our Scripture & Discussion how can we Pray for you this week?” – Pray for One Another.

Announcements

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

Sunday Series: PARENTHOOD

Sept.15: *The #1 Trend That Shapes a Child's Life.*

Sept.22: *Custom Made - Why One Size Parenting Doesn't Work.*

Sept.29: *What Are You Raising? Human Beings or Human Doings?*

Oct.6: *Parenting Do Overs - What Parents Would Do Differently if They Had the Chance.*

Hearing God Workshop

Mondays. Sept.23, 30 Oct. 7, 21, 28. 7pm-8:30pm. Chapel. www.mainstreetchurch.ca/hearing-god

Supper & The Summit

Sun. September 29th. *FREE Family Dinner at 5pm * Worship-Prayer-Communion at 6pm-7:30pm.

Join us the last Sunday of each month Sept-June (not inc. December).

Next Steps

Sun. October 6th. 12:15pm-1:30pm. Conference Room A. www.mainstreetchurch.ca/next-steps

Partnership Class

Sun. October 6th. 6pm-8pm. Main Street Chapel. www.mainstreetchurch.ca/partnership

Set Free Retreat

October 18-19. www.mainstreetchurch.ca/set-free

Empower Retreat

October 29-30. *Set Free Retreat is a pre-requisite.* Details & Registration available soon.

Extra PARENTHOOD Resources

[Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles That Can Radically Change Your Family](#) - by Paul David Tripp

*Quotes from the Book:

<https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/48223100-parenting-14-gospel-principles-that-can-radically-change-your-family>

1. Calling

Principle: Nothing is more important in your life than being one of God's tools to form a human soul.

2. Grace

Principle: God never calls you to a task without giving you what you need to do it. He never send you without going with you.

3. Law

Principle: Your children need God's law, but you cannot ask the law to do what only grace can accomplish.

4. Inability

Principle: Recognizing what you are unable to do is essential to good parenting.

5. Identity

Principle: If you are not resting as a parent in your identity in Christ, you will look for identity in your children.

6. Process

Principle: You must be committed as a parent to long-view parenting because change is a process and not an event.

7. Lost

Principle: As a parent you're not dealing just with bad behavior, but a condition that causes bad behavior.

8. Authority

Principle: One of the foundational heart issues in the life of every child is authority. Teaching and modeling the protective beauty of authority is one of the foundations of good parenting.

9. Foolishness

Principle: The foolishness inside your children is more dangerous to them than the temptation outside of them. Only God's grace has the power to rescue fools.

10. Character

Principle: Not all of the wrong your children do is a direct rebellion to authority; much of the wrong is the result of a lack of character.

11. False Gods

Principle: You are parenting a worshipper, so it's important to remember that what rules your child's heart will control his/her behavior.

12. Control

Principle: The goal of parenting is not control of behavior, but rather heart and life change.

13. Rest

Principle: It is only rest in God's presence and grace that will make you a joyful and patient parent.

14. Mercy

Principle: No parent gives mercy better than one who is convinced that they desperately need it themselves.