

# Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Message: BELIEF THEN BAPTISM

Speaker: Shawn Vandop

April 16, 2023



## Connect

### 1. APRIL CHECK-IN: (Break into groups of 2-3 or Men/Women)

\* Read [John 16:33](#)

On a scale of 1-10 (Terrible-Excellent) how are you in these areas as we finish this month and head into March?

**a. Mental Health      b. Physical Health      c. Spiritual Health**

>> Remember these responses as you head into prayer.

### 2. 2023 Prayer Goals: April - **BE BOLD IN DEVOTIONS** . Pick up a copy of this month's brochure at church.

Read [1 Timothy 4:8](#).

*"Distractions must be conquered or they will conquer us. So let us cultivate simplicity; let us want fewer things; let us walk in the Spirit; let us fill our minds with the Word of God and our hearts with praise. In that way we can live in peace even in such a distraught world as this." – A.W. Tozer*

- a. How are your personal devotions going this month? What has been encouraging or discouraging so far?
- b. What are your plans for this week? *Your focus, Bible reading/plan, prayer, time/place/location with Jesus!*

### 3. P.R.A.Y. (15min)

Read [Luke 8:22-25](#) and use this scripture as a guide for prayer.

**Pray** – Take 10min to P.R.A.Y. together. Leader – time & transition to each component.

- Pause (be still & focus. 2min)      -- Rejoice & Reflect (praise & thanks. 2min.),
- Ask (invite & request 4min.)      -- Yield (surrender & trust. 2min)

## Discussion (45min)

### 1. Your Baptism Highlights:

If you've been Baptized, when & where did yours take place? Describe your experience in 1min or less.

### 2. Sunday Message Recap: Pastor Shawn taught on BAPTISM.

a. Do you have any questions or feedback based on his message, or Baptism in general?

Baptism is an outward symbolic act of something powerful that has happened inside a person's heart. It is a marker!

b. Our next **Baptism Celebration is Sun. April 23** during the Sunday morning services.

\*Apply online [www.mainstreetchurch.ca/baptism](http://www.mainstreetchurch.ca/baptism)

### 3. BAPTISM Basics

\*BAPTISM publicly and personally identifies us with Jesus Christ.

\*Baptism is an outward symbolic act of something powerful that has happened inside a person's heart.

\*Baptism is a public declaration of a new association illustrated through death and resurrection.

\*Baptism declares to the world that we were dead, we were buried but now we are alive!

\*‘Baptiso/Baptisma’ is a common Greek word used to describe  
*washing, dipping/dunking (clothes in dye), immersion, drowning, sinking (ship)...*

#### **A. Baptism is PERSONAL**

- When you get baptized you are being baptized into Christ’s death. Read [Romans 6:3-4](#)
- When you get baptized you are made alive in Christ. [Galatians 3:26-29](#); [Colossians 2:12-13](#)

**\*How does Baptism connect with and reflect Christ’s Resurrection?**

**\*How has Baptism personally impacted you or others that you know?**

#### **B. Baptism is PUBLIC** - Following Jesus is a personal decision but it was never meant to a private decision.

- Jesus set the example by getting baptized in one of the most public places of his day – the Jordan River.
- When you get Baptized you are publicly standing with and for JESUS! Read [Matthew 10:32-33](#)

**\*Can you think of some other examples of outward/public symbols that reflect an inward (personal) commitment or experience?**

**\*How have you seen, or how could you see Baptisms act as a public witness in our day?**

#### **C. Baptism is a Command of Christ and a PRIORITY for every Christ Follower.**

- It’s a command of Jesus in Scripture. - It was a common practice of the early-church in Scripture.
- Early Christians almost always believed & got baptized in the same day.
- Read [Matthew 28:19-20](#); [Acts 2:36-41](#); [Acts 8:12](#) - [www.openbible.info/topics/baptism](http://www.openbible.info/topics/baptism)

**\*Why do you think God chose water as the element used in Baptism?**

**\*What promise is He making in Baptism that we are choosing to believe and receive in our lives?**

**\*What is the prerequisite for Baptism?**

**\*What message does your being Baptized convey that words alone cannot? (Col.2:12)**

**\*Why do you think many Christians wait a long time before getting Baptized?**

#### **4. Since Jesus had nothing to repent of, what was the point of His Baptism?**

Read [Mark 1:4-11](#); [John 1:29-31](#); [Hebrews 4:14-16](#)

#### **5. Reference Point**

**\*How can Baptism be an encouraging and motivational reference point for Christ followers in their ongoing journey of sanctification and discipleship (being made whole and following Christ)?**

### **Prayer** (15min)

**\*In response to our sharing and discussion, how can we pray for you?**

**\*Let’s pray for one another and those who will be baptized on Sun. April 23.**

### **Group Next Week**

**\*With Baptism Sunday we won’t have a regular Discussion Guide. Make alternate plans as a group.**

**> Group Social, Prayer & Communion, Other Study/Discussion, Community Service Activity...**