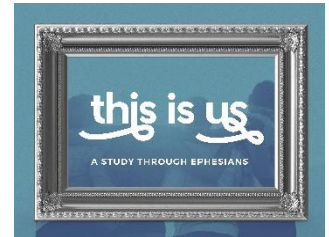


# Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

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

Message: Part 4 – *God's Masterpiece*

March 1, 2020. Speaker: Shawn Vandop – Lead Pastor



**Connect** (15min) – share refreshments.

## 1. This Is Us...

- a. What is one of your *hobbies or interests* in life (beyond your family and work)?  
(e.g. what do you do to recharge, for fun, or a challenge, or curiosity sake...)
- b. Describe one way that this activity or interest recharges or inspires you.

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

*"LORD, Help Me...To develop a consistent daily devotional time with You."* #2020 Prayer Goals

- a. Share a highlight from your Devotions (reading/prayer) this past week, or your plan for the month of March.
- b. Read [Zephaniah 3:17](#) & Pray.
  - > Invite one person to give thanks for the highlights and pray for your remaining time together today.

## Sunday Message Discussion (35-40min)

\*Share the reading of the Scriptures throughout the discussion.

### 1. Something of Great Value

- a. Would you rather *look at* ART or *make something* ARTISTIC? Explain why.
- b. What is something of great value (other than a person) that you own or have seen yourself?  
(e.g. art, music or sports memorabilia, ancient artifact, treasure, a family heirloom...)
- c. i. How is something's Value usually determined? Share some examples as a group.  
ii. Is it always subjective? Whose opinion or perspective matters the most in determining value?

### 2. Made ALIVE in Christ! > Read the core passage from Sunday's Message: [Ephesians 2:1-10](#)

- a. What initially stands out to you in this passage?
- b. What does Paul tell us about ourselves in verses 1-3?
- c. Have you ever thought of yourself as *spiritually dead*? Are Paul's words hard or encouraging to hear? & Why?
- d. Why do you think it is so important for Paul to make sure the Ephesians (and us) know this about ourselves?  
Paul is making it clear that without Jesus (GOD) we're "spiritually dead." The good news is that anyone can turn to God and His Word to be made "spiritually alive" again.

*"In every other worldview, you find the way of being good and the way of not being bad. But in the Christian message, Jesus Christ didn't come into this world to make bad people good. He came into this world to make dead people live. That's the reality. We cannot attain salvation by lifting ourselves up by our own ethical standards"*

– [Dr. Ravi Zacharias](#)

- e. How would you describe (to others) the process of God's Word working in us who are spiritually alive?

\*Consider these helpful verses – [Hebrews 4:12](#); [1 Peter 1:22-23](#); [John 16:13](#).

### 3. Taking Shape

- a. According to [Ephesians 2:2](#) how does the Devil gain control of our hearts & lives?

- b. How do the following verses describe our part in being intentionally influenced by God?
- Read [Philippians 4:8-9](#); [Proverbs 7:1-4](#); [John 8:31](#).
  - Can you think of any ways God's influence on you has helped you influence others? If so, explain.
- c. Would you say that you relate to God as someone who is trying to SOLVE you, or the One who is SHAPING you?  
> Discuss the difference & impact of this.

#### 4. God's Poem

One of the amazing results of God's grace can be seen in [Ephesians 2:10](#), where Paul says we are God's "*poiema*" -- which is Greek for *poem, handiwork, workmanship or masterpiece* -- created to do "good works."

*"The Greek word Paul chose for this sentence is "[poiema](#)," and what he had in mind is a work of masterful creativity. You can already tell that this is where we get our English word "poem." Paul selected this word carefully. The only other time in Scripture he used it was in [Romans 1:20](#) -- where it takes five English words to unpack poiema. All that we see, hear, touch, taste, and smell in the universe is reading God's creative masterpiece, his epic poem. Homer, Dante, Milton, and Spenser were masterful poets, as far as humans go. But at their best, their poems are merely human imaginations. However, when God imagines, his images come into real existence. His poems are living, active and multi-dimensional." -- [Jon Bloom, desiringgod.org](#).*

- Have you ever thought of yourself as God's *poem* or *masterpiece*? Describe why...
- What do you think those *good works* are? Discuss.
- Now, read the following verses and see if what you discussed lines up with what these Scriptures say. What do these verses say about the "good works" we are called and created to do:
  - [James 1:27](#); [Romans 12:6-8](#); [1 Peter 4:8-11](#); [Hebrews 13:16](#).
- At times, it can be confusing as to which good works God has created us to do. How could the following passages help us better understand the good works for which God has created us?
- How might you explain to someone that God wants us to be involved in His good works?

### Application & Prayer (15min)

- What is **ONE THING** from Sunday's Message or our Group Discussion that you will apply and practice this week?  
*"LORD, Help Me...Do one thing you've never done before in order to know and experience You more."* #2020 Prayer Goals
- DECLARE** the truth of [Ephesians 2:10](#) over yourself & another person each morning this week in prayer.
- PRAY for ONE ANOTHER:** *\*Seek Out Opportunities to Pray for and with the People around me.* #2020 Prayer Goals  
*"Today, you get the priceless privilege of reading with your whole being one verse or maybe a few lines in the great poiema of God, while at the same time being a poiema which God will recite forever and will always remember. God is wholly absorbed in his living epic. He wants you to be too." -- [Jon Bloom, desiringgod.org](#).*

**\*Pray for One Another.** Break in groups of 3-4 and take 1min of quiet reflection to consider the following:

*"Jesus, based on the message and discussion, what is one way others can pray for me this week?"*

**\*Share** with your smaller group (of 3-4) **and pray** for the person on your right.

## 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.

\***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 11<sup>th</sup>**. 6pm-8pm. Main Street Chapel. Dinner & Childcare provided. Please RSVP to Pastor Eryn.

### MAIN STREET MEN: MAN BREAKFAST

\***Sat. March 14<sup>th</sup>**. 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.

### SET FREE RETREAT

\***April 3-4**. Fri. 5:30pm-9pm / Sat. 9am-7pm. \$40. Register online, at the Church Office, or at Guest Services.

### 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.