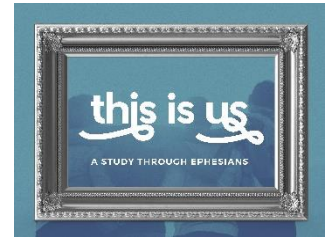


# Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

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

Message: Part 5 – *We Are Family*

March 8, 2020. Speaker: Shawn Vandop – Lead Pastor



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

## 1. This Is Us...

a. What is one thing about your Family (currently or growing up) that we don't know about you yet?

## 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 [Revelation 7:9-10](#) & [Revelation 21:1-7](#)

> Invite the Group to give thanks & praise to God together as you begin your time of discussion & sharing.

## Sunday Message Discussion (35-40min)

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

### 1. Potlucks & Restaurants

a. Would you rather eat at a Potluck or a Restaurant?

b. What is one of your favorite things to eat at a Potluck? What do you look for?

c. What is one of your favorite restaurants (or kinds of restaurant) to eat at and why?

d. Would you view The Church as more of a "Potluck" or "Restaurant" experience, and how so?

### 2. The Outsiders

Can you think of an experience in your life where you felt like you were an outsider? *Describe & Discuss.*

### 3. Great Expectations

a. When you come to church (on Sunday & to Life Group) do you come expecting something?

b. What expectations do you think people have when they come to church from these 3 perspectives?

i. They have never been church before, and know very little about Christianity, the Bible or Church.

ii. They've had limited to some exposure to "Church..."

(perhaps through media, kids/youth events, summer camp, Christmas & Easter)

iii. They're familiar with the Christian faith and "Church..."

c. How are their expectations fair or not? Discuss.

### 4. *One Father, One Family, One House & Many Rooms (& Siblings)* -- Read [John 14:2-3](#).

\* This week, we heard about *the power of being part of God's family*.

a. What is one word that would describe your family growing up? Why that word?

b. Pair up (with someone you are not related to) and share one strength and one weakness/challenge in your family experience so far.

c. We have all had different family experiences growing up, and perhaps with the family we are raising.

How is your experience or view of being part of God's family similar or different from the family you grew up in?

d. Why do you think "Family" is such a common & important theme in God's Story throughout the Bible?

*"There is no one concept of God which dominates the theology of Paul more than [the fatherhood of God]."*

– Dictionary of Paul and His Letters

## 5. Family Matters

\*Optional – Watch *The Bible Project – Overview of Ephesians*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y71r-T98E2Q> (8min)

\*Read [Ephesians 2:11-22](#)

- a. What is one thing you initially learn about God here, and what is one thing you initially learn about us?
- b. Do you recall where is Paul writing the letter to the Ephesians from?
- c. What is a Gentile? Would you be considered one?
  - If so, how does what Paul’s message impact you personally? Discuss.
- d. Shawn referred to a story in [Acts 21-22](#) to give us some insight to what Paul is saying in Ephesians 2:11-22. Did this context help you understand what and why he wrote what he did? Discuss.
- e. In [Ephesians 2:11-22](#) Paul worked hard at breaking down the wall of separation between the Gentile and Jewish believers.
  - i. Read [Colossians 3:11-17](#). As you read/listen to this Scripture write down the characteristics & attitudes listed that can help build the kind of community that Paul wrote about to the Ephesians.
  - ii. Look at the list in [Colossians 3:11-17](#).  
If you had to grow in one area more than the others, which one would it be? Why?
- f. Paul wrote about breaking down “[walls of hostility](#)” (Eph.2:14). He pointed out that there are all kinds of walls that can hold us back from experiencing the kind of community that God wants us to have.  
\*What are some of the walls (actions & attitudes) that keep us from living as “*citizens*” of God? Discuss.
- g. How can focusing on “**what I can give**” rather than “**what can I get**” help bring down some of the dividing walls you just talked about?
- h. Are there any insights from [Colossians 3:11-17](#) that if followed or applied would move a person to becoming more of a ‘giver’ than a ‘taker?’ Discuss.

## 6. The Power of Family Promises

One of the significant benefits of being part of God’s Family is that you can experience God’s presence & promises now and throughout eternity. Below, are four of the many promises God gives us in his Word.

\*Which one catches your attention the most and why?

- a. [1 Peter 5:6-7](#) – God’s Care
- b. [2 Corinthians 1:3-4](#) - God’s Comfort
- c. [Isaiah 40:31](#) – God’s Strength & Endurance
- d. [Psalm 139:5](#) – God’s Presence & Blessing

## Application & Prayer (15min)

1. What is **ONE THING** from Sunday’s Message to remember & apply in your life this week?
2. **PRAY for ONE ANOTHER**: \**Seek Out Opportunities to Pray for and with the People around me.* #2020 Prayer Goals  
\***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.

## Resources

The Bible Project – Overview of Ephesians: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y71r-T98E2Q>

Articles: [www.desiringgod.org/articles/meet-the-family-of-god](http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/meet-the-family-of-god), [www.compellingtruth.org/family-of-God.html](http://www.compellingtruth.org/family-of-God.html),  
[www.gotquestions.org/Bible-family.html](http://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-family.html), [www.gotquestions.org/family-of-God.html](http://www.gotquestions.org/family-of-God.html).

Scripture: [www.openbible.info/topics/being\\_a\\_part\\_of\\_the\\_family\\_of\\_god](http://www.openbible.info/topics/being_a_part_of_the_family_of_god)

## 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 – *The Power of Another*

\*[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's 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 & potential Life Group Leaders from your group. I encourage you to invite a potential Life Group Leader!

\*If you have a Wednesday night Life Group please make arrangements to have someone cover for you so that you can attend this Huddle.

**Date:** **Wed. March 11.** 6pm-8pm. NEW Office Meeting Room. Dinner & Childcare provided.

\*Please [Register Online Here!](#) by **Mon. March 9<sup>th</sup>**.

### 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.