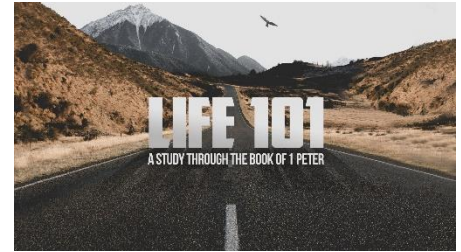


Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: **LIFE 101 – 1 Peter**

Part 13 – Truths We've Learned & are Learning about Marriage
May 7, 2017



Connect (15min)

* Share 1 highlight from APRIL & 1 event/experience you're looking forward to in MAY.

Check-In (15min)

* What is a Book or Topic in the Bible that you've never (or limitedly) explored that you could dig into this month?
(or *Do you have a plan for reading/devotions/prayer with JESUS this month? How can we assist/encourage you?*)

Pray: Have one of your Group members Pray for your Group as you begin your Discussion.

Sunday Message Feedback (40min)

* Pastor Shawn continues our LIFE 101 series in 1 Peter.

Special Note on This Week's Topic: Although marriage is the focus be sure to include those who are single in your Group discussion as it is designed to be helpful for all of us regardless of our marital status. Optional questions (in *italics*) have been provided for those in groups with single or divorced members.

"There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations - these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub and exploit - immortal horrors or everlasting splendors. This does not mean that we are to be perpetually solemn. We must play. But our merriment must be of that kind (and it is, in fact, the merriest kind) which exists between people who have, from the outset, taken each other seriously - no flippancy, no superiority, no presumption." – C.S. Lewis

1. What is one truth you have learned since being married that you never knew when you were single?

**Alternate Question: What is one truth (about life & love) that you've learned through a close relationship/friendship that you couldn't have learned on your own?*

Discuss.

2. Shawn and Sonya talked through **8 Truths** that they have learned and are learning in their marriage. Which one or ones can you most identify with (in your marriage *or key relationships*)? Why? Discuss.

Here are the 8 points for you to quickly remind your group about:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| i. Write Your Own Story | ii. Figure Out Your Foundation | iii. Settle Your Issues | iv. Always Forgive |
| v. Fight Fair | vi. Be Accountable | vii. Have Fun | viii. Never Give Up |

3. Shawn talked about how most couples would believe that Jesus is the foundation of their marriage but the reality is He isn't. The foundation of most people's marriages are their **EXPECTATIONS** and their **EXPERIENCES**.

How has this been true in your marriage? How much time did you spend understanding and talking about expectations and experiences before you got married?

- a. How was your upbringing different from your spouses? Share.
- b. How has those experiences growing up impacted your marriage today? Share.

**Alternate Question:*

How can our expectations and experiences influence our closest relationships, with family or friends?

4. Have you ever asked yourself the question: “What would it be like to be married to me?”

**Alternate Question: “What would it be like to be my friend, sibling, co-worker, employee...?”*

How could asking this question help your marriage/relationship become healthier? Discuss.

5. Read Romans 12:1-2

- a. Who is the focus of this verse for (hint: you, not your spouse/friend)
- b. How could applying this passage help your marriage/friendship...? Discuss
- c. What would be the pay off in your marriage/friendship for inviting God to “renew your mind”?

6. Believe the Best - Shawn and Sonya talked about how a forgiving couple will “believe the best” about their spouse rather than “assume the worst.”

- a. Do you tend to believe the best or assume the worst when it comes to your marriage/spouse/friends?
- b. How does a commitment to forgiveness fill in the gap between expectations and behaviors?
- c. How can/has God’s love & forgiveness for us inspire and empower this shift?

7. Be Accountable - Is there a couple/friend who you respect and hold yourselves accountable to?

Who in your life can you talk to when you have struggles in your marriage/relationships, and who will champion your marriage?

If you have nobody – who could you (as a couple) approach and ask them to be a mentor and encouragement to you?

8. Have FUN - What do you do for fun as a couple?

Share ideas with your group and come up with a quick list that you can all use for date nights.

9. Never Give Up & Work on Becoming the Right Person

Shawn and Sonya shared that they chose to “never give up” and in doing so were able to break through some difficult times in their marriage. A big part of that is they both decided to work on becoming the right person rather than trying to make one another into the right person.

This became a key piece in the vision for their marriage. It meant they had to grow up and mature in how they interacted and treated one another.

- a. **Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 & 11**. Looking at your marriage/relationships - are there areas where you need to “grow up” and “put away childish things?” (v.11)
What are those things or what have they been in your marriage/key-relationship?

Application & Prayer (20min)

* ALL of what the Apostle Paul tells us about LOVE in this passage is hard work, requiring choice and commitment. Which characteristic of LOVE (1 Cor. 13:4-7) do you need to mature in the most this season?

* **SHARE** with your group and **PRAY** for one another.
(you can break into groups of 3-4 or Men & Women)

* **Resource for Marriages:** Share this link with your group and have them use the questions to create deeper levels of communication in their marriage.

35 Questions for Maturing a Christian Marriage

<http://www.ccwtoday.org/article/thirty-five-questions-for-maturing-a-christian-marriage>

Announcements

MAN BREAKFAST

Sat. May 13. 8am. Conference Hall & Café. Tickets - \$5.

MOTHER'S DAY Sunday

Sat. May 14. 8am. *Special Offering*

FRESH START Finance Course

Wednesdays. May 10-31. Main Street Church. Info & Registration: www.mainstreetchurch.ca/fresh-start

