

# Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: **UPSIDE DOWN** – *The Beatitudes* – Matthew 5:1-12

Message: **Part 4 – Stay Hungry**

November 10, 2019. Speaker: Shawn Vandop – Lead Pastor.



**Connect** (15-20min) – share refreshments.

**\*Break into groups of 3-4 people to discuss the Icebreakers and Pray for one another.**

a. **Sun. November 3** was our [Missions Focus Sunday](#), and the [International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church](#).

\*Did you check out the *Missions Expo* in the Conference Hall or chat with any of our Missionaries and Ministry Partners? *Share your feedback.*

b. **WORD UP November**

\*Do you have a reading/devotional plan for the month of November? Where have you been reading in Scripture? Do you have a focus/theme for prayer? How has God been encouraging or challenging this past week?

c. **Faith-Family-Focus**

\*Pray for the person on your right in these three areas:

1. Pray for their *Faith* & spiritual growth 2. Pray for their *Family/Friends* 3. Pray for their *Focus* (work/school...)

## Sunday Message Discussion (35-40min)

1. **Invite one person read the Beatitudes in [Matthew 5:1-12](#) and open in Prayer:**

> We will read *The Beatitudes* each week during this series. We challenge you to memorize this passage.

Option - Choose a different reader and English translation/paraphrase each week. (NLT, ESV, NIV, NKJV, Message, TPT...)

2. **The BIG IDEA: *God blesses those who are committed to live LIKE Jesus, and FOR Jesus.***

**Message Feedback:** Share your initial feedback on Sunday's Message.

\*What impacted, encouraged or challenged you the most and why?

3. **Righteous v Self-Righteous**

a. In your own words, how would you define "*righteousness*?"

b. How would you define "*self-righteousness*?"

c. When you think of a righteous person what kind of person comes to mind?

In other words, what does a righteous person look like? Discuss.

4. **Read the following translations of [Matthew 5:6](#) out loud:**

a. New Living Translation (NLT) – "*God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.*"

New International Version (NIV) – "*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.*"

b. What do you think JESUS means for us to be "satisfied" or "filled?" Discuss.

5. **The Greek word for *hunger*** here is the same word Matthew uses to describe Jesus fasting in the desert:

"For 40 days and 40 nights he fasted, and he became very hungry" ([Matthew 4:2](#)).

a. What are the implications of this understanding?

b. How is Jesus understanding of "hunger and thirst" upside down or different than from what you may think?

6. Read [Matthew 5:20](#) – God’s Righteous Standard.

- a. How do you think this statement from Jesus made his listeners feel?
- b. What does this indicate about God’s standard for righteousness?
- c. Do you ever look at others around you and think you could never be as righteous, holy or spiritual as them?  
How does that make you feel?

7. **The Greek word for *filled*** has less connotation of being *satisfied* and more of being **STUFFED!**

- a. How would you describe your actual “hunger” for the righteousness of God?
- b. Do you seek to be satisfied or STUFFED? Discuss.

8. **The way that we are “filled”** with this righteousness is that Jesus gave us his own righteousness through his death on the cross for our sins. We are depending on his righteousness, not our own.

- a. Describe how *a relationship with God based on grace* instead of human-merit is a blessing.  
(Read [Romans 3:21-24](#) as you discuss your answer).
- b. **Since Jesus has given us his righteousness**—so that we can have the sense of continually craving righteousness—how can this gift impact our actual, ongoing behavior in life? Discuss.

9. Read [Exodus 3:11-15](#) and **The 7 “I AM” Statements of Jesus** in the Gospel of John.

[John 6:35](#); [John 8:12](#); [John 10:9](#); [John 10:11](#); [John 11:25-26](#); [John 14:6](#); [John 15:5](#). +[Revelation 1:8, 18, 22:16](#).

- a. Do you believe that **JESUS IS & HAS everything that you need for life, love & righteousness?**
- b. **What is one thing you can do this week** to develop a greater hunger for the righteousness of God in your life?  
*Share & discuss as a group.*

### Application (10min)

\***Righteousness** is not something we attain through our own efforts; God declares us righteous when we enter a relationship with Jesus. Hunger & thirst for righteousness by doing what God has said (in the Bible) to do and by inviting the the Holy Spirit to lead you daily.

>> Are there any other action steps that you and the group can take in response to this message from Christ this week?

\*Memorize [Matthew 5:6](#) this week.

*“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.”* (NKJV) – Jesus.

\*Memorize **The Beatitudes** throughout this series -- [Matthew 5:3-10](#)

### Prayer (20min)

\*Read [Psalm 23](#) together as you move into Prayer.

*Based on our topic and discussion let’s Share our requests, Praise God together, and Pray for one another.*

### Resources to Consider

\*Scripture:

<http://www.openbible.info/topics/righteousness>. <https://www.gotquestions.org/blessed-hunger-thirst-righteousness.html>.

\*Books: *The Applause of Heaven*, by Max Lucado (based on the Beatitudes)

\*[The Bible Project: Holiness](#) (YouTube Video) \*LUMO Gospel of Matthew 5: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QINSbvO8WIU>

## Announcements

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

>> Plan a week to share **Communion** together as a Life Group each month.

### Upcoming **UPSIDEDOWN** Series Schedule:

November 17 – **The Strength of Gentleness** (Matthew 5:5)

November 24 – **The Ministry of Mercy** (Matthew 5:7)

December 1 – **When No Ones Looking** (Matthew 5:8). *This is also our next Baptism Sunday.*

December 8– **How to Reconcile Relationships** (Matthew 5:9)

### Christmas **HOPE** Campaign 2019

The Special Offering for our annual *Christmas Hope Campaign* is coming up on **Sun. November 10<sup>th</sup>**.

We raised over \$100,000 last year and our goal is once again -- \$100,000. Stay tuned for more information.

\*Hamper Referral Forms available online: <https://mainstreetchurch.ca/christmas-hope> \*Delivery Day is Sat. December 14<sup>th</sup>.

### Main Street Men - **MAN Breakfast**

**Sat. November 16.** 8am. Main Street Conference Hall/Café. Speaker: TBA. Tickets - \$5 – available in November.

### Main Street Women's **Brunch**

**Sat. November 23.** 10am. Main Street Conference Hall/Café.

We invite you to "*A Place at the Table*", a women's brunch on November 23rd at 10am in the Conference Hall.

Our guest speaker is [Eunice Mitchell](#) from The Table Gathering. Tickets are \$5 and available in November until the 17<sup>th</sup>.

### Empower **Retreat**

**November 29-30.** Friday 5:30pm-9pm / Saturday 9am-6:30pm. At Main Street Church.

The *Empower Retreat* is a two-day (Friday-Saturday) retreat where we explore the gifts of the Holy Spirit and how they can be used powerfully in our lives and the church! *\*Set Free Retreat is a pre-requisite.*

\$40 – Includes refreshments, lunch & dinner on Sat. & your Empower Booklet.

<https://mainstreetchurch.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/320115>

### Christmas **Comedy Night** – *with Special Guest - Steve Geyer*

**This is our Christmas Outreach event and geared towards us inviting friends and family from the community.**

**Thur. December 12.** Refreshments provided. This event is for ages 12 & up.

7pm. Tickets - \$10/person. Available at Guest Services and the Church Office in November.

<https://stevegeyer.us>