

# Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

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

Message: **Part 1 –Who Are You Depending On?**

October 20, 2019. Speaker: Shawn Vandop – Lead Pastor.



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

[If you have a larger group break into smaller groups of 3-4 people, or men/women]

## \*Mountaintop Experiences

- What is one of the best (literal) *Mountaintop Experiences* you've had on an actual mountain?
- What is one of the best (metaphorical) *Mountaintop Experiences* you've had in life?
- Is there a *Mountain Top Experience* (literal or metaphorical) that you'd still like experience on earth?

## Sunday Message Discussion (35-40min)

1. Invite one person to Read [Psalm 16](#) & Open in Prayer.

2. \***UPSIDE DOWN Intro** - We can often become confused about how to move forward with God's plan for our lives. However, the truth is God's ways are often totally *upside down* to our ways. **UPSIDE DOWN** is a series of messages based upon the *Beatitudes* – words from Jesus' famous Sermon on the Mount. In this series you will learn how to find peace and fulfillment in your life, work, and relationships.

*\*Share an experience where you suddenly found yourself upside down...*

3. **Imagine** yourself sitting on that mountainside with the disciples as Jesus delivered His most famous sermon. As we read this passage consider what really stands out to you. (Please bring your Bibles to Life Group)

**Have one person read the Beatitudes in [Matthew 5:1-12](#).**

> 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...)

> See the Series Schedule on p.3. The order of the Beatitudes will be mixed around a bit to fit our series.

4. **#BLESSED**

- Before hearing the sermon on Sunday, how would you have defined the word "Blessed"?
- What thoughts, images or feelings arise in you when you think about the word? Discuss.
- When you think of *being blessed* do you tend to define it as something external, as something internal, or even eternal? Discuss.
- Shawn said that "*To be blessed by God requires living the kind of life that God wants to bless.*" How do you respond to this statement? Discuss.

5. **Read Matthew 5:3.**

**The BIG IDEA – God blesses those who realize their need for Him in everything!**

**The Question to Consider – Who or what are you depending on?**

- What area in your life do you recognize that you are poorest in spirit?
- Secondly, what area of your life do you need to be more-poor in spirit?

*“Mark it down. God does not save us because of what we’ve done. Only a puny god could be bought with tithes. Only an egotistical god would be impressed with our pain. Only a temperamental god could be satisfied by sacrifices. Only a heartless god would sell salvation to the highest bidders. It is when we are out of options that we are most ready for God’s surprises.” – Max Lucado, The Applause of Heaven.*

c. Share the reading of [Ephesians 2:1-10](#) and *The Romans Road* – [Romans 3:10, 23; 6:23; 5:8; 10:9-10; 5:1](#).

How do these verses connect with or echo the words of Jesus in Matthew 5:3?

6. Pastor Shawn said, *“The moment we put our trust in anything other than The One who provides everything, life begins to be drained from our souls.”* When have you experienced this? When have you experienced the opposite?
7. Being part of the Kingdom of Heaven means being part of *God’s Family* and people now and forever. How do you need to experience the *Kingdom of Heaven* today?  
*\*Hope, Peace, Security, Assurance, Joy, Grace, Mercy, Strength, Courage, Healing, Provision...*
8. Shawn said, *“To be **“Poor in Spirit”** is to live and believe that - **God blesses those who realize their need for Him in everything.**”* Is it possible to live with this realization? What makes it hard for you?
9. Shawn concluded with **3 statements & 3 questions** that can help us put God first, leading us to be *“poor in spirit.”*
  - a. *“I will put God first in my relationships”*  
**QUESTION:** *“What does Love require of me?”*
  - b. *“I will put God first in my finances”*  
**QUESTION:** *“God what would you have me do with my finances? How much should I GIVE, SAVE, SPEND?”*
  - c. *“I will put God first with my time”*  
**QUESTION:** *“God, how would You have me invest my time?”*

**\*Which question(s) do you need to begin asking?**

## Application (10min)

**\*Consider:**

- > What is one area this week you can begin to put a greater dependence on God in your life?
- > The only way for God to be first in your life is by nothing else being first.
- > What’s one thing you can do to begin to put God first in your life?

**\*Memorize [Matthew 5:3](#) this week.**

*“God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.” – Jesus.*

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

## Prayer (20min)

**\*Read [John 3:30](#)**

**\*PRAY for One Another:** Stay together as a large group, or break into smaller groups for prayer.

*“Based on the Scriptures & Discussion how can we Pray for you this week?” – Pray for One Another.*

## Resources to Consider

\*LUMO Gospel of Matthew 5 (on YouTube): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QINSbvO8WIU>

\*[\*The Applause of Heaven\*](#), by Max Lucado (based on the Beatitudes)

\**Beatitudes* – Of Dirt & Grace Album, Hillsong United. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6iFLwSVQwEE&t=1s>

\**Oh Blessed* – Song by Stu Gerrard & Anthony Skinner. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqCza\\_qGXzg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqCza_qGXzg)

## Announcements

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

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

### UPSIDEDOWN Series Schedule:

October 20 – **Who Are You Depending On?** (Matthew 5:3)

October 27 – **How God Blesses a Broken Heart** (Matthew 5:4)

November 3 – **When You're Persecuted** (Matthew 5:10-12). *This is also our Mission Sunday.*

> *Special Guests Kevin and Julia Garrett. Kevin spend almost two years in a Chinese prison for a crime he did not commit. Come here his story of how God strengthened his faith through persecution.*

November 10 – **Stay Hungry** (Matthew 5:6)

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 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

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

### Set Free Retreat

**October 18-19.** Friday 5:30pm-9pm / Saturday 9am-6:30pm. At Main Street Church.

\$40 – Includes refreshments, lunch & dinner on Sat., your Set Free Booklet. Financial assistance available upon request. Register & Pay online or through the Church Office: [www.mainstreetchurch.ca/set-free](http://www.mainstreetchurch.ca/set-free)

### Main Street Men

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

### Main Street Women 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 *\*Set Free Retreat is a pre-requisite.*

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

\$40 – Includes refreshments, lunch & dinner on Sat. & your Empower Booklet. *More Details & Registration will available soon.*