

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: **PRAY FIRST 2020**

Message: **Part 1**

January 5, 2020. Speaker: Shawn Vandop – Lead Pastor



Connect (15-20min) – share refreshments.

- a. Share a couple of your **Highlights from the Holidays**.
- b. What a couple of the **Challenges or Opportunities** ahead for you in 2020?
- c. What is 1 Way that 2020 is different than you imagined it might be as a kid?

FOCUS - Invite 1 Person to Read [John 15:1-8](#) & then (Leader) **Open in Prayer**.

Father God – Thank you for Your Love & Provision in 2019...

May Your Kingdom come & Your will be done this year.

Jesus - You are the Vine and we are your Branches. We need You for Life! Be our Focus and Foundation in 2020.

Holy Spirit - Fill us afresh with your Presence & Power; may we be increasingly faithful & fruitful in You. Amen!

Pray First 2020 (15min)

January 6-26, 2019

***Engage JESUS with your PrayFirst Booklet this week and bring it to Life Group this month.*Highlight key dates on p.7.**

***Does anyone have an encouraging highlight to share from their Pray First experience last year (2019)?**

***Do you have any initial Questions or Feedback about PrayFirst?**

- a. What jumped out at you from your Devotional time in the Pray First Devotional?
- b. Who or what are some of your key prayer & fasting focuses during these 21 days? pp.8-9
- c. What is one breakthrough that you are praying for?

Sunday Message Discussion (30-35min)

1. Finish the Phrase:

- a. *“One of hardest things I’ve ever done or learned to do is...”*
- b. *“One of hardest things I would still like to learn/do is...”*

2. Masterclass – There’s an interesting website called [Masterclass.com](#) where students of all levels from around the world can learn (online) from ‘the best in the world’ in a wide variety of areas.

**If you could learn from any living “master/expert” in a given field whose “masterclass” would you take & why?*

3. Masterclass with Jesus. *JESUS asked people Questions and invited people to ask Questions.*

a. If you could ask Jesus to teach you one thing this year – what would you ask Him?

b. What were some of the things biblical characters asked God/Jesus to teach them?

e.g. Wisdom, Knowledge, Truth, Law, How to Live, How to Speak, How to Love, How to Worship, How to Work/Build, How to Fight, about Creation & Eternity...

c. Read [Luke 11:1-4](#). Why do you think the Disciples asked this question of Jesus?

4. The Challenge & Opportunity of Prayer

- a. Describe your Prayer Life in a word or two: _____.
- b. What is one aspect of Prayer that you find challenging? _____.
- c. Read [Matthew 6:9](#). According to Jesus -- What is one of the greatest opportunities for us in Prayer?
This part of Jesus' teaching on *how to pray* shows us that when we pray we need to remember that we are PRAYING TO A PERSON (Our Heavenly Father).
- d. Why do you think Jesus makes this point? How does this truth about prayer break the viewpoint that we can serve God by ourselves without any community or interaction with others?
- e. Jesus is also teaching us that our Heavenly Father is not like us.
 - i. Why is this important?
 - ii. What does it mean to be Holy?
- f. Can you think of a time when you really thought about the Holiness of God? Describe & discuss.
- g. Which danger-zone would you consider more of a challenge for yourself at this point?
 - i. Being too unfamiliar with God?
 - ii. Treating God as someone that you're *too familiar with*?

*How might either of these zones challenge our prayer life and relationship with God?
*What opportunities await us in those zones?

5. Securing vs Surrendering Control

- *Shawn said that "*prayer is not how you secure control, it's how you surrender control.*"
>> Do you tend to pray to *get control* or to *give up control*? Discuss the challenge & opportunity.

6. Our Holy Heavenly Father

*Read [Mark 10:13-16](#)

- a. How could relating to GOD as our *Holy & Heavenly Father* change your approach to Prayer heading into 2020?
- b. Even with the challenges...How is the invitation & opportunity to grow in relationship with the Creator & Savior of the World far better than *human religion*, or *no God at all*?

Application (5min)

Read [Ephesians 3:14-21](#)

1. What is one challenge or opportunity in your relationship with God this week?
2. What is one action step that you can take in that relationship; where we can encourage and pray for you in this week?

Prayer (20min)

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

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

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

Announcements

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

Thank You Main Street Church for your generosity this Christmas season. Through our Christmas Hope Campaign you gave over **\$70,000**. Once again, you have modeled our value of Irrational Generosity.

PrayFirst 2020 – Our Annual 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting: January 6-26

Mark the keys dates on your Calendar and engage in the journey with us this month.

ALPHA Course

Explore the Christian faith in an engaging & interactive environment. Invite your friends & family!

Mondays. January 13-March 16. 7pm-8:30pm. Main Street Chapel.+ Alpha Saturday. Feb. 29. 9am-2pm.

[Alpha Film Series Trailer](#) (on YouTube). Visit <https://mainstreetchurch.ca/alpha> for more Info & Registration.

Weekly Announcements Email

If you are not already receiving the [Weekly Announcement Email](#) from Main Street Church please 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.