

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Overcoming Sin & Shame :: Guest Speaker – Kevin Fricker
April 23, 2017



Connect (15min)

- * **I'M AMAZED:** What is one thing that has Amazed you lately?
- * **I LIKE:** Complete the following sentence with the first 3 things that come to mind.
> "I Like _____, _____ & _____."

Check-In (15min)

Read [Romans 12:9-18](#)

"The church is not a theological classroom. It is a conversion, confession, repentance, reconciliation, forgiveness, and sanctification center, where flawed people place their trust in Christ, gather to know and love Him better, and learn to love others as he has designed."

– Paul David Tripp

What is one way that you're growing in 'knowledge and love' for JESUS this year?

What is one way that you're 'learning to love others as He has designed'?

Sunday Message Feedback (30min)

* **Guest Speaker – Kevin Fricker** (City Centre Church, Edmonton).

Pastor Shawn will resume our LIFE 101 series next week.

1. **Have you ever had a debt paid off for you?** (*ticket/fine, credit-card, mortgage/loan...*)
How did you feel? How did it change your life?
2. **Message Feedback:** What is one way that Sunday's Message informed, encouraged or challenged you?
3. **Read [Genesis 3:1-7](#)**
 - a. What caused Eve to sin? What caused Adam to sin?
 - b. Why was the serpent's suggestion tempting to them? What makes sin tempting to us?
[Reference: [1 John 2:15-17](#); [1 Corinthians 10:13](#); [Hebrews 4:15](#)]
4. **For All Have Sinned.** Read [Romans 3:10-12, 23](#)
 - a. To what degree are all people sinners?
 - b. What void in our lives are we trying to fill when we sin?
 - c. How are pride and/or selfishness connected to sin?
5. **The Wages of Sin.** Read [Romans 6:23](#)
 - a. How did Adam & Eve's sin (death) impact their relationships...
 - i. with Each Other?
 - ii. with Creation (ref. [Romans 8:19-23](#))
 - iii. with God
 - b. How have you experienced the impact of sin in your relationships?
Share 1 or 2 examples without explicit details or names. Ideally, focus on the impact of your own sin...

- c. How did Adam & Eve react/respond to their sin? (*they hid, they covered up, they lied, they blamed...*)
- d. Are we similar to Adam & Eve in response to our own sin?

6. The Solution for Sin. Read [1 John 1:8-9](#)

- a. What does it mean to confess your sins? (eg. agreeing with God about our state and Jesus' work...)
What is repentance? (eg. a change of heart/mind and direction)
How are they different and how do they work together?
- b. Since JESUS paid for our sins (consider the Cross/Easter), do we need to make restitution for them?
Can we even? Why or why not?
- c. For those who have participated in ALPHA or our Set Free Retreat (previously *Encounter God*) – how did your experience there impact your understanding, experience & application in this area of overcoming sin & shame?
(eg. freedom, confession, repentance, forgiveness, healing, life-change...)

Application & Prayer (25min)

***Watch The Bible Project – [Animated Explanation of Sacrifice & Atonement](#)** - (6min video on YouTube)

& Choose one of the following two options before Prayer.

***Option 1: Communion**

If you didn't share Communion as a Group last week you can do it this week. (use last week's notes)

***Option 2: Read [Psalm 32:1-7](#)**

Where are you? What are your "fig leaves"? What or who do you need to prove that you're adequate?
How do the words of King David in Psalm 32 encourage you?

The righteousness of Christ is available to you. That means when you place your faith in Jesus, when you trust him with your whole heart, he covers your shame (Atonement). You don't have to wear fig leaves anymore. You don't have to hide anymore. So, like the prodigal son come home ([Luke 15:11-32](#)).

***PRAY** – break into groups of 3-4 people or men & women.

>> Reflecting on the message and our discussion, how can we pray for you today?

Announcements

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

Sat. April 29. 9am. Conference Hall & Café.

MAN BREAKFAST

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

BAPTISM Celebration

Sun. May 7. 6pm. www.mainstreetchurch.ca/baptism

Resources

SET FREE RETREAT

October 27-28. Main Street Church. www.mainstreetchurch.ca/set-free

SCRIPTURE

<http://www.openbible.info/topics/temptation> / <http://www.openbible.info/topics/sin>
<http://www.openbible.info/topics/atonement> / <http://www.openbible.info/topics/confession>
<http://www.openbible.info/topics/repentance>

ALPHA Film Series - [Episode 3 – Why Did Jesus Die?](#)

The Bible Project – [Animated Explanation of Sacrifice & Atonement](#)

BOOKS

How Good is Good Enough. By Andy Stanley

The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith. By Timothy Keller

Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God. By Francis Chan

Mere Christianity. By C.S. Lewis (see excerpt below)

C.S. Lewis Explains the Atonement: Excerpt from *Mere Christianity* (Ch.4 – The Perfect Penitent)

We are told that Christ was killed for us, that His death has washed out our sins, and that by dying He disabled death itself. That is the formula. That is Christianity. That is what has to be believed. Any theories we build up as to how Christ's death did all this are, in my view, quite secondary: mere plans or diagrams to be left alone if they do not help us, and, even if they do help us, not to be confused with the thing itself. All the same, some of these theories are worth looking at.

The one most people have heard is the one about our being let off because Christ volunteered to bear a punishment instead of us. Now on the face of it that is a very silly theory. If God was prepared to let us off, why on earth did He not do so? And what possible point could there be in punishing an innocent person instead? None at all that I can see, if you are thinking of punishment in the police-court sense. On the other hand, if you think of a debt, there is plenty of point in a person who has some assets paying it on behalf of someone who has not. Or if you take "paying the penalty," not in the sense of being punished, but in the more general sense of "footing the bill," then, of course, it is a matter of common experience that, when one person has got himself into a hole, the trouble of getting him out usually falls on a kind friend.

Now what was the sort of "hole" man had gotten himself into? He had tried to set up on his own, to behave as if he belonged to himself. In other words, fallen man is not simply an imperfect creature who needs improvement: he is a rebel who must lay down his arms. Laying down your arms, surrendering, saying you are sorry, realising that you have been on the wrong track and getting ready to start life over again from the ground floor - that is the only way out of a "hole." This process of surrender - this movement full speed astern - is what Christians call repentance. Now repentance is no fun at all. It is something much harder than merely eating humble pie. It means unlearning all the self-conceit and self-will that we have been training ourselves into for thousands of years. It means undergoing a kind of death. In fact, it needs a good man to repent. And here's the catch. Only a bad person needs to repent: only a good person can repent perfectly. The worse you are the more you need it and the less you can do it. The only person who could do it perfectly would be a perfect person - and he would not need it.

Remember, this repentance, this willing submission to humiliation and a kind of death, is not something God demands of you before He will take you back and which He could let you off of if He chose: it is simply a description of what going back to Him is like. If you ask God to take you back without it, you are really asking Him to let you go back without going back. It cannot happen. Very well, then, we must go through with it. But the same badness which makes us need it, makes us unable to do it. Can we do it if God helps us? Yes, but what do we mean when we talk of God helping us? We mean God putting into us a bit of Himself, so to speak. He lends us a little of His reasoning powers and that is how we think: He puts a little of His love into us and that is how we love one another. When you teach a child writing, you hold its hand while it forms the letters: that is, it forms the letters because you are forming them. We love and reason because God loves and reasons and holds our hand while we do it. Now if we had not fallen, that would all be plain sailing. But unfortunately we now need God's help in order to do something which God, in His own nature, never does at all - to surrender, to suffer, to submit, to die. Nothing in God's nature corresponds to this process at all. So that the one road for which we now need God's leadership most of all is a road God, in His own nature, has never walked. God can share only what He has: this thing, in His own nature, He has not.

But supposing God became a man - suppose our human nature which can suffer and die was amalgamated with God's nature in one person - then that person could help us. He could surrender His will, and suffer and die, because He was man; and He could do it perfectly because He was God. You and I can go through this process only if God does it in us; but God can do it only if He becomes man. Our attempts at this dying will succeed only if we men share in God's dying, just as our thinking can succeed only because it is a drop out of the ocean of His intelligence: but we cannot share God's dying unless God dies; and he cannot die except by being a man. That is the sense in which He pays our debt, and suffers for us what He Himself need not suffer at all.