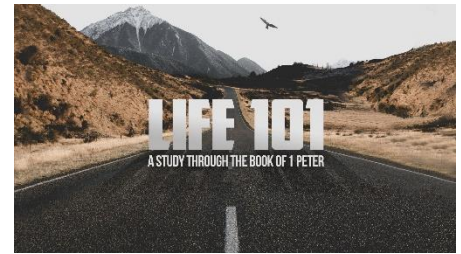


Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: **LIFE 101 – 1 Peter**

Part 14 – Live Like There's No Tomorrow (1 Peter 4:7-11)
May 14, 2017



Connect (20min)

* **CHALLENGE-OPPORTUNITY-WIN**

- > Share 1 Challenge you've faced this past week.
- > Share 1 Opportunity you have this coming week/month.
- > Share 1 Win you can celebrate and give thanks for.

Check-In (10min)

* **Share 1 highlight from your devotions this past week** (from your Bible reading/study & prayer)?

* **Do you have a plan or focus for your devotions this week?**

Do you need any ideas, encouragement or accountability?

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.

1. **"Surprise!"** - Some of us love surprises, while others of us would prefer to see something coming even if the "surprise" is something positive. Which side of the spectrum do you tend to fall on? Discuss.
2. **If you could know certain things about your future** (like when you're going to die, who you will marry, what your kids will do in the future, major illnesses you'll have, etc.) would you want to know that information? What would be some benefits and drawbacks from knowing that information? Discuss.
3. **Sunday Feedback:** Looking back at Sunday's message, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?
4. **Christ's Return:** Pastor Shawn spoke about the importance of avoiding speculation when it comes to assigning a specific time for Christ's return or trying to fill in all the specific details. However, there are a number of future events that are clearly spelled out in Scripture even if we don't understand all the details about them. Read the following passages and identify the events yet to happen in each one.
 - [Revelation 21:1-4](#)
 - [1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#)
 - [2 Corinthians 5:10](#)

*Do these passages bring you a sense of hope, fear, a desire to change, or something else?

5. Read [1 Peter 4:7-11](#)

Peter shows us three areas of our life that should be impacted if we are living in light of Christ's return.

1. We are to Pray Harder 2. Love Deeper 3. Serve Smarter.

*Which application jumped out or challenged you the most? Do you find that you tend to be more aware of these areas in your life when you live with anticipation of Jesus return?

6. The Battle in the Waiting -- Read [John 16:33](#) and [Ephesians 6:10-18](#) -- Pray Harder

- a. Do you live your life with the awareness of the spiritual battle this passage addresses? Why or why not?
- b. Would you agree that living with an awareness that you are in a spiritual battle would impact your prayer life? How? How do we communicate with our *Commanding Officer* (Jesus) in the midst of life's battles?
- c. Shawn talked about how most people tend to pray at the "back end" of a situation. How would living in the awareness of **Ephesians 6:10-18** help you pray more at the "front end" of a situation? Are you a "Back end" or a "Front end" prayer? Discuss.

7. Peter tells us to **Love Deeper** (Read [1 Peter 4:8](#)). This means we are to live our lives doing the loving thing even when we don't want to do it. Deep love is not always easy.

What do the following verses tell us about this kind of love in action:

- a. [Romans 12:9-10](#)
- b. [Hebrews 6:10-12](#)
- c. [1 Corinthians 16:13-14](#)

*Which of these statements about love is most important for you to remember this season?

8. Part of loving deeper is to show hospitality to others. Shawn talked about what true Biblical hospitality is (*read the following points and explanations to refresh people's memories*)

- a. *It's not entertaining*
 - **NOTE:** Entertaining is waiting till the house and yard is clean and fixed up. When we entertain we clean things up and we bring things out that we don't normally use.... Nothing wrong with that but if your home has to be perfect before you open the door than you are an entertainer. Biblical hospitality opens the door even when the house is a mess. Biblical hospitality opens the door even when you don't have it all together. Hospitality is all about serving.
- b. *It doesn't keep score*
 - **NOTE:** We keep score when someone has us over and then we think we now have to have them over or we have someone over and now expect them to have us over. That is keeping score. If you expect something from people who come into your home then you have missed the point of what it means to be hospitable.
- c. *It has limits*
 - **NOTE:** There are times and places where we have to set boundaries and guidelines. Hospitality does not mean that you bring people into your home or around our home that will make your family unsafe or who will take away your focus from ministering and taking care of your family first
- d. Did these insights change how you view hospitality? Discuss.

*What would need to change in your life to become more hospitable?

9. Peter finishes his description of a person who lives their lives anticipating Jesus return by telling us that they will be people who **Serve Smarter**. They are people who will use their God given gifts to make a difference in people's lives.

Use Your Gifts!

- a. Do you know how and where God has gifted you spiritually?
- b. If you don't know what do you think is a spiritual gift in your life?
>> Ask your group to speak into what they think may be a spiritual gift God has given you.
- c. References and Tools: You can reference [1 Corinthians 12:1-31](#), [Romans 12:3-8](#) and [Ephesians 4:11-13](#) for some examples of how God gifts us. (NOTE: these are not exhaustive lists. You may have a gift in your life that is not listed – try and discover what that may be. For example [Exodus 31:1-5](#) speaks about people with carpentry and artistic gifts, etc....)
*Leaders: You can also suggest our online Spiritual Gift Assessment and share the Spiritual Gift Descriptions on pp.4-5 of this guide. Online Assessment: <http://mainstreetchurch.ca/next-steps/spiritual-gift-assessment>
- d. How can you use your gifts to build God's kingdom? Are you using your gifts and abilities to bring Glory to God? Discuss.

Application & Prayer (20min)

Looking back at the three points from this weekend's teaching on Living Like There's No Tomorrow, which one is most important for you to remember and why?

1. We are to Pray Harder
2. Love Deeper
3. Serve Smarter.

How can you practically begin to live your life with a greater awareness that Jesus could return at any moment?

Discuss and Pray for one another.

Announcements

YOUNG MARRIEDS DATE NIGHT

Fri. May 26. 7pm. Main Street Church. Tickets on Sale at Guest Services or the Office. \$10 per couple.

PRAYER SUMMIT

Sun. May 28. 6pm. Now in our Main Street Chapel.

MAIN STREET CHURCH AGM

Wed. June 14. 7pm. Chapel/Cafe.

Spiritual Gifts – Definitions and Scripture References

ADMINISTRATION: The gift of administration is the divine strength or ability to organize multiple tasks and groups of people to accomplish these tasks. Luke 14:28-30; Acts 6:1-7; 1 Corinthians 12:28

APOSTLESHIP: The gift of apostleship is the divine strength or ability to pioneer new churches and ministries through planting, overseeing, and training. Acts 15:22-35; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Galatians 2:7-10; Ephesians 4:11-14

CRAFTSMANSHIP: The gift of craftsmanship is the divine strength or ability to plan, build, and work with your hands in construction environments to accomplish multiple ministry applications. Exodus 30:22, 31:3-11; 2 Chronicles 34:9-13; Acts 18:2-3

DISCERNMENT:

The gift of discernment is the divine strength or ability to spiritually identify falsehood, to distinguish between right and wrong motives and the spiritual forces at work in situations. Matthew 16:21-23; Acts 5:1-11, 16:16-18; 1 Corinthians 12:10; 1 John 4:1-6

EVANGELISM: The gift of evangelism is the divine strength or ability to help non-Christians take the necessary steps to becoming a born-again Christian. Acts 8:5-6, 8:26-40, 14:21, 21:8; Ephesians 4:11-14

EXHORTATION: The gift of exhortation is the divine strength or ability to strengthen, comfort or urge others to action through the written or spoken word and Biblical truth. Acts 14:22; Romans 12:8; 1 Timothy 4:13; Hebrews 10:24-25

FAITH: The gift of faith is the divine strength or ability to believe in God for unseen supernatural results in every arena of life. Acts 11:22-24; Romans 4:18-21; 1 Corinthians 12:9; Hebrews 11

GIVING: The gift of giving is the divine strength or ability to produce wealth and to give by tithes and offerings for the purpose of advancing the Kingdom of God on earth. Mark 12:41-44; Romans 12:8; 2 Corinthians 8:1-7, 9:2-7 65

HEALING: The gift of healing is the divine strength or ability to act as an intermediary in faith, prayer, and by the laying-on of hands for the healing of physical, mental and spiritual sickness. Acts 3:1-10, 9:32-35, 28:7-10; 1 Corinthians 12:9, 28

HELPS: The gift of helps is the divine strength or ability to work in a supportive role for the accomplishment of tasks in Christian ministry with the ability to often see the need before others do. Mark 15:40-41; Acts 9:36; Romans 16:1-2; 1 Corinthians 12:28

HOSPITALITY: The gift of hospitality is the divine strength or ability to create warm, welcoming environments for others in places such as your home, office, or church. Acts 16:14-15; Romans 12:13, 16:23; Hebrews 13:1-2; 1 Peter 4:9

INTERCESSION: The gift of intercession is the divine strength or ability to stand in the gap in prayer for someone, something, or someplace, believing for profound results. Hebrews 7:25; Colossians 1:9-12, 4:12-13; James 5:14-16

WORD OF KNOWLEDGE: The gift of knowledge is the divine strength or ability to bring truth to a situation by supernatural revelation. This is often accompanied by a word from God. Acts 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:8; Colossians 2:2-3

LEADERSHIP: The gift of leadership is the divine strength or ability to influence people at their level while directing and focusing them on the big picture, vision, or idea. Romans 12:8; 1 Timothy 3:1-13, 5:17; Hebrews 13:17

MERCY: The gift of mercy is the divine strength or ability to feel empathy and to care for those who are hurting in any way. Matthew 9:35-36; Mark 9:41; Romans 12:8; 1 Thess. 5:14

MIRACLES: The gift of miracles is the divine strength or ability to alter the natural outcomes of life in a supernatural way through prayer, faith, and divine direction. Acts 9:36-42, 19:11-12, 20:7-12; Romans 15:18-19; 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28

PASTOR/SHEPHERD: The gift of pastor/shepherd is the divine strength or ability to care for the personal needs of others by nurturing and mending life issues. John 10:1-18; Ephesians 4:11-14; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 1 Peter 5:1-3

PROPHECY: The gift of prophecy is the divine strength or ability to communicate God's truth and heart in a way that calls people to a right relationship with God. Acts 2:37-40, 7:51-53, 26:24-29; 1 Corinthians 14:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 1:5

SERVICE: The gift of serving is the divine strength or ability to do small or great tasks in working for the overall good of the body of Christ. Acts 6:1-7; Romans 12:7; Galatians 6:10; 1 Timothy 1:16-18; Titus 3:14

TEACHING: The gift of teaching is the divine strength or ability to study and learn from the Scriptures primarily to bring understanding and depth to other Christians. Acts 18:24-28, 20:20-21; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11-14

TONGUES (and Interpretation): The gift of tongues is the divine strength or ability to pray in a heavenly language to encourage your spirit and to commune with God. The gift of tongues is often accompanied by interpretation and should be used appropriately. Acts 2:1-13; 1 Corinthians 12:10, 14:1-14

WORD OF WISDOM: The gift of wisdom is the divine strength or ability to understand and to bring clarity to situations and circumstances often through applying the truths of Scripture in a practical way. Acts 6:3,10; 1 Corinthians 2:6-13, 12:8