

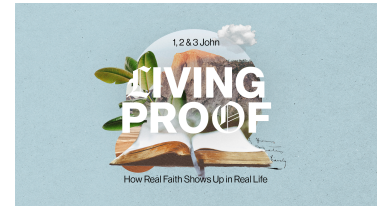
# Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

**Series:** Living Proof - How Real Faith Shows Up In Real Life. 1-2-3 John.

**Message 4:** How Do You Know You're Really Saved?

**Speaker:** Shawn Vandop - Lead Pastor

**Date:** May 10, 2026



## Connect (20min)

### 1. Your Week In A Word

- Try to think of *one word* to describe this past week in your life, then share it with the group.

### 2. Thanks Mom!

- Being considerate that we have various kinds of relationships with our Moms ...
- Share your Mom's name and one life lesson that you learned from her?
- What is one other way that you're thankful for your Mom?

### 3. Read [1 John 2:1-6](#) and Open in Prayer together.

*Invite the Holy Spirit to teach, convict, and encourage as you open God's Word together.*

## Message Discussion (50min)

### 1. Which of the three groups mentioned in the message do you relate to most right now?

- a. *The constantly unsure*      b. *The completely unfazed*      c. *The "you can never really know" group*

Why do you think that is?

Read: [1 John 5:13](#).

How does this verse impact you? What is John's goal for believers?

### 2. Why do you think people tend to either DOWNPLAY sin or become CRUSHED by it?

Read: [Romans 6:1-2](#) and [Romans 8:1](#).

How does the Gospel help us avoid both extremes?

### 3. John says Jesus is our Advocate, not our accomplice. What's the difference?

How can someone subtly expect Jesus to "cover" sin without actually surrendering it?

Read: [1 John 2:1](#) and [Hebrews 7:25](#).

How do these verses encourage you?

### 4. Pastor Shawn made the point:

***"Your assurance is not rooted in sinlessness. It's revealed in your RESPONSE to sin."***

How do people typically respond to sin in unhealthy ways?

(denial, hiding, rationalizing, shame, blame, minimizing, etc.)

Read: [Psalm 32:1-5](#).

What does *healthy repentance* actually look like?

## 5. Shawn described two ways we approach sin:

- a. Sin you LIVE IN      b. Sin you FIGHT

What is the difference between *struggling with sin* and *settling into sin*?

Why is the *presence of conviction* actually encouraging for a believer?

Read: [Galatians 5:16–18](#).

How do these verses relate to your journey?

## 6. John says, “We know that we have come to know Him if we keep His commands.” Why is obedience such important evidence of genuine faith? How do we obey FROM assurance instead of FOR assurance?

Read: [John 14:15 and Ephesians 2:8–10](#).

## 7. Is there an area of your life where God has been clear... but you’ve still been negotiating?

Read: [James 1:22–25](#).

What is one *practical step of obedience* that could you take this week?

## 8. In Sunday’s closing story, the child hid after staining the shirt instead of running to his father.

When you fail spiritually, what is your natural instinct:

- a. Hide?      b. Perform?      c. Pretend?      d. Run to Jesus?

Read: [Hebrews 4:14–16](#).

[Option] Play and reflect on the song [Run to the Father](#), by Matt Maher. (4min)

What would it look like this week to “*run to your Advocate*” more quickly?

## Prayer (20min)

>> Set aside 15min to Pray together as a group. Break into groups of 3-4 people to enhance this time.

- **Choose and share one of these *Prayer Prompts* for yourself and pray for one another.**
  - > Assurance                      > Advocate                      > Repentance                      > Obedience
- **Who is one other person in your life who we can pray for? Share their name & need; then pray.**
  - > Presence                      > Power                      > Provision                      > Protection

## May

>> **Series Challenge:** Read or Listen through the entire *Letter of 1 John* in one sitting. 15min.

>> **Share Announcements** and confirm plans for your Life Group this month.

Life Group options for May-June: *Group Social, Serving Event, Communion, Wrap Up BBQ/Party.*