

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

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

Message 1: Simple But Not Shallow

Speaker: Shawn Vandop - Lead Pastor

Date: April 12, 2026



Connect (25min)

1. Read Hosea 6:3 & Open in Prayer.

"Oh, that we might know the LORD! Let us press on to know him.

He will respond to us as surely as the arrival of dawn or the coming of rains in early spring."

2. Share a favorite **April Activity** that you'll engage in this month.

3. Share a **Blessing & Battle** you've experienced this past week.

Pause to give thanks to God and pray for one another

Message Discussion (50min)

1. Introduction to 1 John:

a. Choose one of the following options for your group and share your initial feedback.

*Share the Reading of the Letter of [1 John](#) together (15min). *1 John is written as a pastoral letter to early Christians, so it's helpful to read the letter in one sitting during this series.*

*Watch [The Bible Project - Books of 1-3 John Summary](#) (9min on YouTube).

b. How were you encouraged or challenged from Sunday's Message? What did you learn?

2. Dear John:

a. What do you know about the Apostle John? Did you learn something new on Sunday?

**Take 2min to share short statements instead of one or two people sharing longer details.*

b. John went from a "Son of Thunder" to the "Apostle of Love."

Where have you seen real transformation in your own life, or where do you still want to see it?

What does this say about the power of walking with Jesus?

c. What's an area of your life where you tend to want things "simple" but God might be calling you deeper instead? Where may you have confused "simple" with "easy"?

3. Closer Connection:

"You don't become loving by trying harder, you become loving by getting closer to Jesus."

a. How is this reflected in Jesus' teaching in John's Gospel? Read [John 15:1-17](#).

b. Practically, what does "getting closer to Jesus" (abiding) look like in your current season?

c. What helps you stay connected? What pulls you away?

4. Reasons for Writing:

John gave four reasons or purposes for writing this letter. Read and discuss each one.

- a. **JOY.** Read [1 John 1:3-4](#).
 - > John connects joy to fellowship (*koinonia*) with God and others.
 - > When do you feel most spiritually “alive” and full of joy?
 - > What might be blocking deeper fellowship in your life right now?
- b. **FREEDOM FROM SIN.** Read [1 John 2:1](#).
 - > Why do you think it’s possible to love Jesus and still feel stuck in certain patterns of sin?
 - > What’s one practical step you can take this week towards freedom?
- c. **TRUTH IN A CONFUSED CULTURE.** Read [1 John 2:26](#).
 - > *We live in a world that says, “live your truth,” but Jesus says “I Am the Truth.”*
 - > Where do you currently feel the most tension between a culture’s truth and God’s truth?
 - > How can you grow in discerning truth this week?
- d. **ASSURANCE.** Read [1 John 5:13](#).
 - > *John says we can know we have eternal life!*
 - > Have you ever struggled with assurance in your faith? What has influenced that?
 - > What helps you feel confident in your relationship with God?

Prayer (15min)

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

- **Consider and complete the following sentence and use it as a point of prayer for each other:**
“This week, I want to grow in _____ (joy, freedom, truth, or assurance) by _____.”
Share and pray for one another.
- **Who is one other person in your life that we can pray for?**
Share their specific needs and pray for one another.

April

>> **Challenge:** Read or Listen through the Letter of 1 John each week on your own. 15min per week.

>> Share **Announcements** and confirm plans for your next Life Group meeting.

- **Set Free Retreat.** April 17-18. mainstreetchurch.ca/set-free
- **Hearing God Workshop.** Sundays, April 19-May17. mainstreetchurch.ca/hearing-god
- **Prayer Summit.** Sunday, April 26. mainstreetchurch.ca/prayer