

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Summer Series: You Asked For It

Message: Contending for the Faith:

What are the Essentials & Non-Essentials of Christianity?

Speaker: Shawn Vandop

Date: June 9, 2024



Connect (20min)

*Split into groups of 3-4 to enhance your sharing.

1. Summer Essentials

- Share 1 Essential Summer Memory from your childhood.
- What are your 2024 Summer Essentials in the following areas? Share 1-2 items or experiences for each category.
*Eats *Treats *Clothing *Challenge *Chill *Road Trip *Location *Music *Movie *Read
- Do you have a Bible reading or devotions plan for the summer, and if so, what is your plan or focus?
How's it going so far? Share any highlights.
- Give thanks together and open your discussion in prayer.

Message Discussion (45min)

1. Debated, Decided, Defended

- What was the last "non-religious" thing you remember getting into an argument or debate over? Share briefly.
In hindsight, was it worth arguing about? Why?
- Read [1 Peter 3:13-17](#)
- What was the last "religious" thing you remember getting into a debated discussion about? Share briefly.
In hindsight, was it worth the battle? Why?

2. Sunday Feedback

- How were you encouraged and challenged by the message?
- What did you learn? What is one question you still have?

3. Hey Jude

- Read [Jude 1-4](#). What stands out to you in these verses?
[Optional Video: [The Bible Project - Jude](#)]
- Jude tells us to "contend" or "defend" the faith. What is the faith we are to contend or defend? Discuss.

The "Faith" refers to the essential beliefs (or doctrines) of Christianity: The Trinity, depravity of man, deity and humanity of Jesus, salvation by grace through faith, resurrection of Christ, & second coming of Christ.

4. Essentials of Our Faith

- The essential doctrines of our faith answer three questions:
 - [Who is Jesus?](#)
 - [Why did Jesus die on a cross?](#)
 - [Did Jesus rise again?](#)How we answer these questions separates Christians from non-Christians. Why is this true?
- Shawn talked about the difference between **ESSENTIALS**, **CONVICTIONS** and **OPINIONS**.
Does this help you in navigating the essentials of the faith and the non-essentials?

- c. The *essentials* of our faith are non-negotiable, but how important are *convictions*?
Do the *convictions* of the church matter, and how so? How can they help foster health and vitality?

5. Contend for the Faith

- a. Why are we to contend for the faith?
- b. Do you agree with the following statements? Discuss them one at a time.
 - i. **The essentials (doctrine) protect us from error.** *How?*
> Read [2 Timothy 4:3-4](#)
 - ii. **Doctrine provides instructions for living.** *How?*
> Read [Romans 12:1-2](#)
 - iii. **Doctrine promotes unity.** *How?*
> Read [Ephesians 4:1-6](#)
- c. Which of these insights about doctrine do you need the most help and growth in?
(Protects from error, Provides instruction for living, Promotes unity).

>> Share this with your Life Group and use them as a point of prayer.

Prayer (20min)

*Split into groups of 3-4 to enhance your sharing.

1. Read [Jude 20-23](#). **How can you apply these instructions in your life and group?**
20 But you, dear friends, must build each other up in your most holy faith, pray in the power of the Holy Spirit, 21 and await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will bring you eternal life. In this way, you will keep yourselves safe in God's love. 22 And you must show mercy to those whose faith is wavering. 23 Rescue others by snatching them from the flames of judgment. Show mercy to still others, but do so with great caution, hating the sins that contaminate their lives.
2. **In response to Sunday's Message and our discussion...**
How can we pray for you and the people in your life who need to know Jesus?
3. **Continue to Pray for our 2024 Prayer Goals.**

20 PRAYER GOALS 24 GOALS

- A PASSION TO PRAY.** Personally, and corporately. That we would become a church OF prayer.
- A FRESH VISITATION** of the Holy Spirit that results in a willingness to respond to all He gives us and calls us to.
- For at least 200 new people to **ATTEND** our Set Free and Empower Retreats.
- That we **MAKE ROOM** for more people to experience wholeness in Christ.