

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: *PRAY FIRST 2018*

Message: *Part 4 – Growing Your Character*

January 28, 2018



Connect & Check In (25min)

*ICEBREAKER

- > What would be your 1 Highlight from January?
- > What is 1 thing you're looking forward to in February?

*Welcome & Opening Prayer

- > Let's begin our time with focused Prayer – giving Praise & Thanks to GOD together.
- > Use "popcorn prayers" (short statements) to *Praise, Thank and Invite GOD...*

1. PRAISE GOD (5min)

- a. *FATHER GOD, I Praise You for _____ (or) I Praise You because You are _____.*
- b. *JESUS, I Praise You for _____ (or) I Praise You because You are _____.*
- c. *HOLY SPIRIT, I Praise You for _____ (or) I Praise You because You are _____.*

2. THANK GOD (5min)

- a. *FATHER GOD, I Thank You for _____.*
- b. *JESUS, I Thank You for _____.*
- c. *HOLY SPIRIT, I Thank You for _____.*

3. INVITE GOD (5min)

- a. *GOD, we invite You to Lead & Teach us...*
- b. *GOD, we invite You to convict us and challenge us...*
- c. *GOD, we invite You to transform and empower us...*
- d. *GOD, we invite You to _____ in Jesus' Name, Amen.*

Sunday Message Feedback (45min)

*Speaker: Pastor Shawn Vandop.

1. PRAY FIRST Feedback: [Refer to your PRAY FIRST Devotional booklet for this Discussion]

- a. Share 1 Highlight/Blessing/Change you experienced or received during the 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting, and how God worked in your life through that.
- b. Share 1 Challenge/Struggle that you faced with the 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting, and how God met you in that or worked in your life through that.
- c. Character Challenge: Go back and remind your group of the ONE area that you have been asking God to grow your character (**pg.14 in the Pray First Devotional**). How has God been developing that area of your character? Have you grown at all? What is different about you today? (NOTE: if group members have not participated in the Devotional read through the list on pg. 14 and ask them which area they want God to work in their character).

2. *Please complete the [online PRAY FIRST Survey](#) that the church sent out this week.

It's helpful for us to receive feedback. It's an anonymous survey, so if you have some stories or highlights that you'd like to personally share, please message Pastor Shawn & Pastor Eryn directly.

3. **GROWING YOUR CHARACTER**

a. When you hear the word "**Character**" – what do you think? How would you define this term to a child?

b. Pastor Shawn said that "**Character is who you are in private when no one is looking.**"

Do you agree with this definition? What would you add to describe character?

c. **Christian Character Development** is the life long journey of inviting Jesus to make us more like Him ([Sanctification](#)). Have you ever been specific in asking God to develop areas of your life or do you tend to just pray "God, make me like you." *Potential* -- What do you think would happen if you continued to revisit this list and specifically ask God to develop these areas of your life?

d. On **pages 10-11 in the Pray First Devotional** is a list of some reasons why character development is important. Have you ever thought about character in light of these truths? Do you think they are true? How have they been true in our life?

4. Read [DANIEL 3 \(NLT\)](#)

a. Do you think you could have stood in the face of death like *Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego*? Discuss.

b. Why do you think they were able to stand? Discuss.

c. What are some ways that we can develop our character so that we stand firm in your faith?

5. Pastor Shawn mentioned **3 things you can do to develop your character.**

Do you remember what they were?

a. **Decide before you have to decide**

- Have you ever been intentional about making decisions before you have to make them?
- What are some areas of your life you have done this? (goals, boundaries/standards...)
- What are some areas you wish you had done this?

b. **Pass the small tests**

- Can you think of a small test that you passed, that prepared you for bigger times of testing and temptation?

c. **Trust in the "God Factor"**. [*Trust & Integrity* were the focus of Day 16 & 17 in your PRAY FIRST Devotional]

- Read [Daniel 3:16-18](#)
- How can this kind of character and strength be real in our lives today?
Are you willing to trust God even if things don't go your way?

Application & Prayer (20min)

* **APPLY:** How will you apply your experience from PRAY FIRST, and continue to invite God to develop your character and make you more like JESUS? Share 1-2 examples/steps.

* **PRAY:** Break into pairs or groups of 3-4 people to Pray for one another in response to what's been shared.

Announcements

ALPHA

Alpha is now full. We have 85 participants (inc. leaders) this season! Pray for Alpha -- Jan.18-March 29.

PARTNERSHIP CLASS

Sun. February 4. 6pm-8pm. Main Street Chapel. Coffee/Dessert & Childcare provided.

Info & Registration - www.mainstreetchurch.ca/partnership

*If you haven't attended one of our Partnership Classes we encourage you to attend, so that you have a refreshed/updated understanding of Partnership (Membership) at Main Street Church.

NEXT STEPS

Sun. February 18. 12:15pm-1:30pm. Conference Room A. Lunch & Childcare provided.

Info & Registration - www.mainstreetchurch.ca/next-steps

*Learn the basics of Main Street Church (the *who, what, when, where, why & how*), our ministry areas & serving opportunities.

MAIN STREET WOMEN: Coffee & Conversation Event

Sat. February 24. 7pm-8:30pm. Main Street Conference Hall & Café. Register at Guest Services or through the Office.

BAPTISM SUNDAY

Sun. March 4. During the Morning Services. Info & Registration - www.mainstreetchurch.ca/baptism

SET FREE RETREAT

April 20-21. Info & Registration - www.mainstreetchurch.ca/set-free

*Go for the first time, or if it's been a year or two for you.