

# Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: **PRAY FIRST 2020**

Message: **Part 2**

January 12, 2020. Speaker: Shawn Vandop – Lead Pastor



**Connect** (15-20min) – share refreshments.

**\*If this is your meeting of 2020 feel free to use the *Connect Questions* from last week's guide.**

- a. What is one change or development that you imagine happening by the end of this new decade (by 2030)?
- b. What is one thing that we don't know about you yet?

**FOCUS** – Share the reading of [1 Chronicles 29:11-12](#); [Jeremiah 29:11-13](#); [Micah 6:8](#); & [1 John 5:14-15](#) and then open with praise & thanksgiving as a group.

**Pray First 2020** (15min)

January 6-26, 2019

**\*Share your Feedback or Answered Prayer from your PrayFirst experience this past week?**

- a. What jumped out at you from your Devotional time in the Pray First Devotional?
- b. Who or what are some of your key prayer & fasting focuses during these 21 days? pp.8-9
- c. What is one breakthrough that you are praying for?
- d. Who is one person in your life that we can pray for salvation for this week? \_\_\_\_\_.

Take a moment to pray now - and pray for the person to your right and the person they just mentioned.

*"There is one thing better than going to Heaven and that is to encourage at least one other person to go with me."* – Nick Vujicic

**Sunday Message Discussion** (30-35min)

**1. Finish the Phrase: *Darkness & Light***

- a. *"One of the ways I saw or experienced the darkness of Sin & Satan this past week was..."*
- b. *"One of the ways that I saw or experienced the light of God this past week was..."*

**2. "Prayer is spiritual communication between people and God, a two-way relationship in which people should not only talk to God but also listen to Him. It is like a child's conversation with their father. It is natural for a child to ask their father for the things they need." – Billy Graham.**

**\*Do you think prayer is something we can be taught, learn & grow in?** Discuss the opportunity & challenges.

**3. Read [Matthew 6:9-13](#)**

Last week we learned from Jesus that when we pray we are to remember that ***we are praying to a Person*** who is not like us (Our Heavenly Father – v.9).

This week we learned that when we pray we are to **PRAY GOD'S PLANS** (Read [Matthew 6:10](#) again).

- a. When you pray...are you more prone to pray your plans or do you intentionally take time to ask God what His plans are? Discuss...
- b. To pray for God's will to be done it helps to grow in understanding what His will is:  
– His sovereign will, His general will, His moral will and His specific/personal will.  
What are some ways that we can grow in understanding His will?

- c. How would you describe the difference between *the general will of God, which is His ultimate plan for us, and His will for specific people and situations?* Can you think any examples...?
- d. Jesus tells us to pray for God's Kingdom to come...  
How/Where do we learn about the Kingdom of God?  
How would you describe the Kingdom of God to someone who asks what that means? Discuss.
- e. Shawn encouraged us to read, learn and pray the Scriptures. How would praying Scripture fulfill Jesus' teaching on Praying for His Kingdom to come?  
(*Reading the Bible is so important – because it connects your prayers to God's plans*).  
How can reading and understanding the Bible connect our prayers to God's plan?

#### 4. Living & Praying it Out

- a. How does living out the will of God express the Kingdom of God?
- b. How would praying the will of God change your prayer life this year? Discuss.
- c. How could obeying/applying God's will change another area of your life this year?

#### 5. Read [Luke 22:39-44](#). JESUS shows us Who God Is & How we are meant to live.

- a. How did Jesus model praying God's will? b. What if he hadn't been willing to pray God's will?
- c. Praying the will of God in your life means to submit/surrender your life to His will.  
It means that you would rather see His will and purpose happen instead of your own.  
What is one Plan of God that you have been resisting in your life?  
(This is an area we can pray into with you and encourage you in.)

### Application (5min)

Shawn gave some practical suggestions on **how to PRAY GOD'S PLANS**. Read them through as a group and decide and share what one or two things you will practice this week as you continue learning how to pray.

- PRAY FIRST Devotional – **Follow the SMORP Method** (pg.10-11 in the PRAY FIRST Devotional).
- **Take a walk in the morning or through the day and pray out loud.** (Using your voice will cause you to be more intentional about what you are saying and build your confidence in prayer).
- **Set reminders on your calendar to pray for specific needs at specific times.**  
Use your PRAY FIRST Prayer list on page 9 of your devotional.
- **Visit your prayer list daily in your Devotional/Journal.**
- **Pray in the moments with people** – don't just promise to pray for them. Do it right away!
- **Prayer walk your neighborhood** – Report back where you have prayer walked so we can fill it on the Prayer Wall in the lobby.
- **Try 2-3 short times of prayer instead of one long one:** Morning – after or during lunch – before bed.

### Prayer (20min)

>> **Based on our topic and discussion let's Share our requests, Praise God together, and Pray for one another.**

\*Consider dividing into smaller groups of 3-4 (or men/women) to enhance the sharing & praying time.

**\*Pray for the person on your left in these three areas:**

1. Pray for their Faith & spiritual growth
2. Pray for their Family/Friends
3. Pray for their Focus (work/school...)

## Announcements

\*Our NEXT LIFE GROUP MEETING: DATE / TIME / LOCATION. SNACK DUTY: \_\_\_\_\_.

**PrayFirst 2020 – Our Annual 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting: January 6-26**

### ALPHA Course

*Explore the Christian faith in an engaging & interactive environment. Invite your friends & family!*

Mondays. January 13-March 16. 7pm-8:30pm. Main Street Chapel.+ Alpha Saturday. Feb. 29. 9am-2pm.

[Alpha Film Series Trailer](#) (on YouTube). Visit <https://mainstreetchurch.ca/alpha> for more Info & Registration.

\*Registration ends after Session 2.

### Weekly Announcements Email

If you are not already receiving the [Weekly Announcement Email](#) from Main Street Church please contact our Office to be added to the mailing list. It's another great way to stay informed and engaged in the life of our church.