

# Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: [PRAY FIRST 2026](#)

Message 4: MAKE ME AN OFFERING – Why We Pray Together

Speaker: Shawn Vandop

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## Connect (30min)

### 1. PERSONAL IMPACT

- Choose one of the following to respond to and share with the group:
  - a. A Bible verse, story or character that has impacted your faith in a personal and lasting way – and why/how.
  - b. A person who has impacted your faith in a personal and lasting way – and why/how.
  - c. A life experience that has impacted your faith in a personal and lasting way – and why/how.

### 2. PRAY FIRST Feedback

- Share highlights and feedback from your experience. How have you been encouraged, challenged, or changed?

### 3. TAKE 5 – Read [2 Chronicles 7:14](#).

- Take 5 minutes to give thanks to God, and pray for one another before discussing Sunday's message.

## Message Discussion (45min)

**WHY WE PRAY TOGETHER:** *Private prayer sustains faith. Corporate prayer shapes a people.*

### 1. Opening Reflection – Reality Check

Read: [Acts 2:42, Matthew 21:13](#)

- > When you hear the word *devoted*, what comes to mind?
- > What's the difference between believing prayer is important and being devoted to prayer?

### 2. Obedience Before Understanding

Read: [Proverbs 3:5–6](#)

- > Have you ever experienced a time when God asked you to obey before you fully understood why?
- > What did you learn *after* obedience that you didn't know before?

### 3. Why Pray Together at All?

Read: [Acts 4:23–31](#)

- > What stands out to you about what the early church prayed for—and what they *didn't* pray for?
- > How does praying together seem to shape *them*, even if it didn't change their circumstances.

### 5. Honest Barriers

Read: [Romans 8:26](#)

- > Which fear resonated with you most from the message?
    - a. "I don't know how to pray out loud" b. "I'm not spiritual enough" c. "Prayer meetings feel awkward"
- What helps lower that fear for you?

## 6. Private vs. Corporate Prayer

Read: [Hebrews 10:24–25](#)

- > The message highlighted that *Private prayer sustains faith & Corporate prayer stirs faith.*
- > Where have you seen each of those play out in your life?

## 7. Formation, Not Performance

Read: [Matthew 6:6–8](#)

- > How does Jesus' teaching on prayer challenge the idea that prayer is about sounding spiritual or impressive?
- > What would it look like to approach prayer as presence, not performance?

## 8. Church Health & Prayer

Read: [Acts 1:14](#)

- > Why do you think Scripture repeatedly highlights the church *gathering* to pray before major moments of growth or breakthrough?
- > What might happen in a church—or a life group—if prayer became foundational instead of optional?

## 9. A Gentle Step Forward (Application)

Read: [Matthew 18:19–20](#)

- > How can we grow personally and corporately in prayer together this coming month?
- > What would be one simple, non-intimidating next step your group could take toward praying together?
  - Opening or closing with short prayer?
  - Agreeing silently while one person prays?
  - Praying for one shared need?
  - Everyone offers one short sentence prayer.
- > What feels doable, not forced?

## PRAYER (15min)

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

- **Pray for growth in one another's private and corporate prayer life.**
- **Share and pray for one other need in each person's life this week.**
- **Who is one person in your life who needs prayer today? God loves them! How can we pray for them?**  
*Salvation, Healing, Hope, Provision, Protection, Courage, Character, Calling...* Pray for them together.

## FYI

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

- **Project3:15 Apologetics Conference.** Saturday, February 28. Visit [mainstreetchurch.ca/project315](http://mainstreetchurch.ca/project315) to register.
- **Together for Good: Marriage Workshop.** Saturday, March 21. [mainstreetchurch.ca/marriages](http://mainstreetchurch.ca/marriages) to register.