

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: [PRAY FIRST 2026](#)

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

Speaker: Shawn Vandop

Date: January 25, 2026



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?

a. Opening or closing with short prayer? b. Agreeing silently while one person prays?

c. Praying for one shared need? d. 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 to register.
- **Together for Good: Marriage Workshop.** Saturday, March 21. mainstreetchurch.ca/marriages to register.