

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Message: **I LOVE MY CHURCH – Part 1**

January 6, 2019



Connect (15min) – Share refreshments.

WELCOME BACK – Share **1 Holiday Highlight** & **1 New Year Opportunity** you're looking forward to.

FOCUS - Invite **1 Person** to Read [John 15:1-8](#) & then (Leader) **Open in Prayer**.

JESUS, You are the Vine and we are your Branches. We need You for Life! We invite You to be our Focus and Foundation this year. Fill us afresh with your Holy Spirit and empower us to be faithful and fruitful for You. May Your Kingdom come & Your will be done. Amen.

PrayFirst (15-20min)

January 7-27, 2019

***Engage JESUS with your PrayFirst Booklet this week and bring it to Life Group this month.**

***Do you have any initial Questions or Feedback as about PrayFirst?**

- 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 focus during this 21 days of prayer and fasting?
- c. What breakthrough or you praying for? d. What character issue are you asking God to work on in you?
- e. Where do you need to become more like Jesus?

Sunday Message Feedback (45min)

***Speaker:** Shawn Vandop – Lead Pastor. **Message:** [I LOVE MY CHURCH](#) – Part 1.

1. **What jumped out at you from Sunday's message?** What got you thinking?
Do you have any initial questions or feedback?
2. **Talk about one of your best experiences in Church so far. What is one highlight for you and why?**
3. Nobody wants to attend a church where there is 'no life'. **How do you measure 'Life' at a church?**
4. **a.** Which elements of your church's services do you get most excited about?
b. Is there an element you could do without?
5. **a.** When you think of church do you think of a **building or people**? Discuss.
b. What's the difference between '**going to church**' vs '**being the church**'?
6. Do you think it is possible to grow in your relationship with God without being connected to a local church? Why/why not? (cf. [Hebrews 10:23-25](#)).
7. **Read [Ephesians 5:25](#) and [Matthew 16:13-19](#).**
What do these verses tell you about how God views His Church? Discuss.

8. Describe the difference between God's view & love for His Church and our view/love for His Church? Where is there room for growth in us (collectively & personally)?
9. Pastor Shawn gave **Four Reasons why the Local Church is so important:**
 - a. **The local Church functions as the Body of Christ.**
 - b. **The Local Church is the Pillar and Foundation of the Truth.**
 - c. **The Local Church provides the ideal lab for learning how to live like Jesus.**
 - d. **The local church provides godly peer pressure (accountability & encouragement).**
10. Do you agree/disagree with these insights? Have you ever thought about the importance of the local church in these ways? Which point jumped out or challenged you personally the most? Why?
11. Read this statement, *"We tend to look at the local church and expect it to do things organizationally that God expects us to do individually."* How have you seen this to be true in your own life?
12. **Share the Reading of [1 Corinthians 12](#).**
Do you know what your spiritual gift is? If so, share it with your group.
How are you using it to serve others?
13. **Read [1 Timothy 3:14-15](#)**
Would you agree that the local church keeps us accountable in how we read and respond to the Word of God? Discuss.

Application & Prayer (15-20min)

*Consider:

- Shouldn't it be normal for churches to be a place of enthusiasm & encouragement?
- Shouldn't it be normal for churches to be a place where people can experience a real connection with God?
- Shouldn't it be normal for churches to be positively shaping our families & communities?
Unfortunately, that's not the case for a lot of churches.
- So, what can you/we do to make all that a normal part of our church environment?
- How can you be a part of what God is doing through our church?

*PRAY - In response to our focus & discussion

1. Take 5 Minutes to Give Thanks to JESUS for His Church (including Main Street Church) using statement prayers like *"JESUS, Thank you for..."*
2. How can we Pray for you and our Church during this week/month of Prayer & Fasting?
(option: break into groups of 3-4 people)

For Further Study:

1. Engage JESUS through your **PrayFirst Booklet** this week.
2. Read the Book of [Acts](#) or Watch [The Bible Project's Luke-Acts Miniseries](#) on YouTube.
<http://www.openbible.info/topics/church> http://www.openbible.info/topics/spiritual_gifts
<https://www.gotquestions.org/what-is-the-church.html>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQhzWW-dauY> – *Do Christians Need to Go to Church?*

Announcements

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

BAPTISM Celebration

Sun. January 13. During the Sunday Services.

Sunday Morning Prayer

Every Sunday at 8:15am in the Care Centre.

Wednesday Morning “Drop-In” Prayer

January 9, 16 & 23. 7am-9am in the Chapel.

Day of Prayer

Wed. January 16th. 6am-5pm (anytime) – in the Chapel.

Supper & The Summit

Sun. January 27th. Light Supper at 5pm. Worship-Prayer-Communion at 6pm.