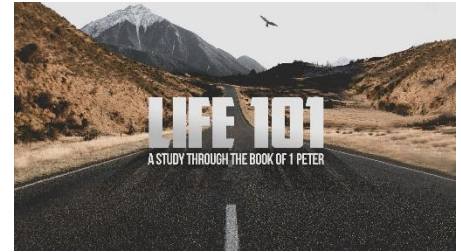


Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: **LIFE 101 – 1 Peter**

Part 11 – The Tensions of Marriage

April 9, 2017



Connect (15min)

* **HIGH-LOW:** Share 1 Highlight & 1 Challenge/Low you experienced this past week.

* **EASTER'S a Comin'**

What are your plans for this Good Friday & Easter Weekend? Are you inviting anyone to Church with you?

Pray: Take a couple of minutes as a Group to pray for the people your Group is inviting.

Check-In (15min)

One of the Values we want to engage and grow in at Main Street Church is:

We are all about the local church

> The local church is God's "Plan A" to reach the world (including Chilliwack) – He has no "Plan B!"

*(Optional) - See the attached article on the Church

***How has Jesus been working in and through your life through your local church (Main Street Church) this year so far?**

Perhaps your Life Group has been an essential part of this for you.

>> Share 1 or 2 specific/brief examples with your Group.

Sunday Message Feedback (40min)

* **Pastor Shawn** continues our LIFE 101 series in 1 Peter.

Special Note on This Week's Topic of Marriage: *Although marriage is the focus be sure to include those who are single in your Group discussion as it is designed to be helpful for all of us regardless of our marital status.*

1. Model Marriage: Is there a couple whose marriage you especially respect or admire?

If so, what characteristics of their marriage stand out to you the most?

2. This weekend, Shawn described a **number of principles for a successful marriage.**

Looking back on the home you grew up in, which of these principles was most evident?

Are there any you wish would have been more evident?

3. Read 1 Peter 3:1-7

a. What do you think our world would look like if we all disregarded the action of submission?

Would it be better or worse? Discuss.

b. Why is submission an important issue in Christian marriages?

If you are not married, to whom do you submit? Why is submission difficult for anyone?

c. What is the benefit of submission?

What is the benefit of submitting according to Peter in 1 Peter 3:1-6?

4. What do you think would change in your life if you put as much effort into your 'inner-beauty' as you do with your 'outer beauty' (image)? [This question works for both women and men, so both can answer it]
5. Read [1 Peter 3:7](#)
- What does it look like when a husband is leading his family Biblically? Discuss.
 - Shawn mentioned four things that husbands are called to do in with their wife.
Do you remember what they were? (Understand her, Protect her, Respect her, Serve her).
*MEN – which one do you find the most difficult to do? Why?

Application & Prayer (20min)

*Based on this week's message, is there anything you need to change or do in one of your relationships to make it healthier?

*Wives - how can you affirm your husband's leadership this week?

Husbands - how can you lead and love your wife well this week?

*Wives - pray for your husband that God would awaken true manliness. Also, talk to him about your heart's desires and what you want to see happen in your household a humble way.

*Husbands - pray for your wives that God would give you grace to lead and love them, and see the best in them.

***PRAY with and for marriages in your group and in our church.**

(including broken/separated marriages and those impacted by divorce)

>> **Resources:** Consider the attached list of Marriage Resources & article on the Church.

Announcements

GOOD FRIDAY & EASTER SUNDAY

Good Friday Service. April 14. 10am. Worship-Reflection-Communion.

[Kids programs for Nursery-Gr.4. Gr.5 & Up join the adults in the Auditorium]

Easter Sunday. April 16. 9am & 10:45am.

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

Sat. April 29. 9am. Conference Hall & Café. Tickets on Sale in April. \$5.

BAPTISM Celebration

Sun. May 7. 6pm. www.mainstreetchurch.ca/baptism

MAN BREAKFAST

Sat. May 13. 8am. Conference Hall & Café. Tickets on Sale in April. \$5.

Resources - Marriage

For a larger list of Resources on the topic of LOVE & MARRIAGE please contact Pastor Eryn at the church office.

Scripture: <http://www.openbible.info/topics/marriage>

Websites: <https://fiercemarriage.com>

<http://www.familylifecanada.com>

<http://www.themarriagecourses.ca>

<http://www.iamsecond.com/struggles/marriage>

Books: Available on Amazon, Indigo, Christianbook.com or through Christian bookstores.

Sacred Marriage

(2002) by Gary Thomas

<https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/55079-sacred-marriage-celebrating-marriage-as-a-spiritual-discipline>

The Meaning of Marriage

(2011) by Timothy Keller

<https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/16321346-the-meaning-of-marriage-facing-the-complexities-of-commitment-with-the>

You and Me Forever: Marriage in Light of Eternity

(2014) by Francis & Lisa Chan

[YouTube Channel](#). Video Resource: www.youandmeforever.org

<https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/41951999-you-and-me-forever-marriage-in-light-of-eternity>

What Did You Expect? Redeeming the Realities of Marriage

(2010) by Paul David Tripp

<https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/9113186-what-did-you-expect-redeeming-the-realities-of-marriage>

Love Talk (Communication & Conflict)

(2004) by Drs. Les & Leslie Parrott

The Five Love Languages

(2014) by Gary Chapman Resources: www.5lovelanguages.com

The Surprising Secrets of Highly Happy Marriages: The Little Things That Make a Big Difference

(2013) by Shaunti Feldhahn

Real Marriage: The Truth about Sex, Friendship, and Life Together

(2013) by Mark & Grace Driscoll

Love & Respect: The Love She Most Desires, The Respect He Desperately Needs

(2006) by Emmerson Eggerichs

From This Day Forward

(2014) by Craig & Amy Groeschel

The Mingling of Souls: God's Design for Love, Marriage, Sex, and Redemption

(2015) by Matt Chandler

Fit to Be Tied: Making Marriage Last a Lifetime

(1993) by Bill & Lynne Hybels

Boundaries in Marriage

(2002) by Dr. Henry Cloud & Dr. John Townsend

Getting Ready for Marriage (2016) by Jim Burns & Doug Fields

Committing to the Church

The following is an excerpt from Francis Chan and David Platt's book, Multiply, about discipleship.
<http://multiplymovement.com>

First, let's make sure that we are not guilty of belittling God's church in any way. It's not a social club; it's not a building, and it's not an option. The church is life and death. The church is God's strategy for reaching our world. What we do inside the church matters. We tend to equate church life with events and programs. But these are not what make a church. Programs are helpful to the extent that they facilitate the life and mission of the church, but we can't equate well-attended events with the health of the church.

God cares about the way we love each other and the way we pursue His mission. The church is a group of redeemed people that live and serve together in such a way that their lives and communities are transformed. What matters is your interaction with the people God has placed in your life. If you are not connected with other Christians, serving and being served, challenging and being challenged, then you are not living as He desires, and the church is not functioning as He intended.

Throughout the Bible, we see pictures of the global church (which includes all followers of Jesus in all locations) and the local church (which includes particular followers of Jesus in a particular location). Out of 114 times that the "church" is mentioned in the New Testament, at least ninety of them refer to specific local gatherings of believers who have banded together for fellowship and mission. God intends for every follower of Jesus to be a part of such a gathering under the servant leadership of pastors who shepherd the church for the glory of God.

Despite the clear priority that the Bible puts on believers being part of a local church, many followers of Christ try to live the Christian life apart from serious, personal commitment to a local church. The reasons are many. We are self-reliant and self-sufficient, and the kind of mutual interdependence and even submission and accountability to others that the Bible talks about frightens us. We are often indecisive, hopping from one church to another looking for the "perfect place" and the "perfect people." Many of us have been hurt in the past by things that have happened to or around us in the church, and others of us simply don't see the importance of being specifically connected to a local church.

But the Bible says the local church is important. God has entrusted local churches with godly leaders who teach us His Word and care for our souls (Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 5:1-8; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; 5:17; Titus 1:5-9). God has united us together in local churches to keep one another from sinning and straying from Christ (Gal. 6:1-5; Matt. 18:15-20). God has commanded us to gather together in local assemblies where we preach God's Word, celebrate the Lord's Supper, baptize new believers, and pray for and encourage one another (Acts 2:42; Heb. 10:24-25). Then we scatter to care for believers and to share the gospel with unbelievers (Acts 2:43-47). Clearly, being a disciple and making disciples involves committing your life to a local church where you are joined together with other believers under biblical leadership to grow in the likeness of Christ and to express the love of Christ to the world around you.