

# Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

**Series:** Living Proof - How Real Faith Shows Up In Real Life. 1-2-3 John.

**Message 2:** The Real Thing

**Speaker:** Shawn Vandop - Lead Pastor

**Date:** April 19, 2026



## Connect (25min)

1. **This Is My Father's World** - Read the lyrics to this early 20th Century Hymn and the open in Prayer. p.3.
2. **Life Environment** - If you were to describe your current experience in life with one of the following environments as a metaphor, which one would you choose and why?  
*Mountaintop - Valley - Jungle - Desert - River - Ocean - Arctic - Prairie - City - Outer Space - Other?*

## Message Discussion (50min)

### 1. Real vs. Fake

Pastor Shawn talked about how hard it is to tell what's real in a world of AI and counterfeits.

Have you ever been fooled by a counterfeit? Briefly share your experience.

Where do you see this confusion showing up spiritually today?

How do you personally discern what's true?

### 2. Read & Reflect on [1 John 1:1-4](#) – 5x!

Have 5 different people in your group take turns reading it aloud. Share your personal impressions.

What did you learn? How are you encouraged, challenged or changed by this Scripture?

### 3. A Faith Built on Reality

The Apostle John's message emphasizes that Jesus is *historical, not hypothetical*.

Why does it matter that Christianity is rooted in real events and eyewitness testimony rather than just ideas or feelings?

### 4. Knowing vs. Experiencing Jesus

John didn't just study Jesus—*he experienced Him*.

What's the difference between knowing about Jesus and actually knowing Him?

Where would you say you are right now?

5. **Private Faith vs. Proclaimed Faith**

John says, “*We proclaim to you...*”

Why do you think people today tend to keep their faith private?

What would it look like for you to be more open or bold about Jesus in your everyday life?

6. **The Test of Community (Koinonia)**

*Real faith creates fellowship, not isolation.*

How has being part of a Christian community helped your faith grow?

Where are you tempted to isolate instead of engage?

7. **Spotting False Messages**

John was *confronting false teachings* about Jesus.

What are some modern-day distortions of who Jesus is?

How can we stay anchored in truth when there are so many competing voices?

8. **Joy vs. Duty**

John says his goal is that our *joy* may be complete.

Be honest, does your faith feel more like joy or obligation right now?

What do you think is the difference between the two?

9. **Encountering the Real Jesus**

Jesus is not just to be understood but *worshipped*.

What would it look like this week for you to move from just “learning about Jesus” to actually walking with Him?

**Prayer** (15min)

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

- Read [Ephesians 3:14-21](#) and then personalize it as a Prayer for each person in your group.
- Is there any other specific need in your life that we can Pray for? Share and pray for one another.  
*Presence - Power - Protection - Provision (Healing, Work, Relational, Financial...)*
- Who is one other person in your life that we can pray for?  
*Share their specific needs and pray for them together.*

**April**

>> **Series Challenge:** Read or Listen through the entire *Letter of 1 John* in one sitting. 15min.

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

- **Prayer Summit.** Sunday, April 26. [mainstreetchurch.ca/prayer](http://mainstreetchurch.ca/prayer)

## This Is My Father's World

Maltbie D. Babcock, 1901.

This is my Father's world  
And to my listening ears  
All nature sings and round me rings  
The music of the spheres

This is my Father's world  
I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees of skies and seas  
His hand the wonders wrought

This is my Father's world  
O let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong  
God is the Ruler yet

This is my Father's world  
Why should my heart be sad  
The Lord is King let the heavens ring  
God reigns let earth be glad

This is my Father's world  
Though soiled by our sin  
Creation groans for God alone  
Can liberate us from within

This is my Father's world  
And so He sent His son  
By grace through faith our lives to save  
And sanctify until He's done

This is my Father's world  
And all will be made new  
Our darkest days will pass away  
And He will make His dwelling place