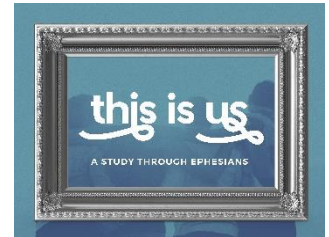


Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: *THIS IS US – A Study Through Ephesians*

Message: Part 1 – Walk Like An Ephesian

February 9, 2020. Speaker: Shawn Vandop – Lead Pastor



Connect (15min) – share refreshments.

Beautiful Cities:

- a. What is the *Most Beautiful City* you've ever visited? What is one thing that made that City so beautiful?
- b. What is one other *Beautiful City* that you would like to visit?

February Focus: Split into groups of 3-4 (or men/women)

- a. Do you have a Bible Reading Plan or Devotional Focus for the month of February?
 - Where are your reading or what are you focusing on (in your devotions/prayer) this month?
 - What is one thing you've learned or experienced with God through your study and prayer time so far this month?
 - Do you need any help (resources or accountability) to make the most of the days ahead?
- b. What is *one blessing* you're thankful for today & *one challenge* that we can Pray about for you this week?
 - *Pray for the person on your right. Give thanks for them and pray about the challenge/opportunity they shared.

Sunday Message Discussion (35-40min)

1. ***This Is Us*** is the title of our new teaching & life group series -- walking through the *Book of Ephesians*.
 - **This Is Us* may also be familiar TV Series for some of you...
 - > What is one of your favorite TV/Netflix/Streaming Series? (currently watching or watched within the past year)
2. **"Welcome to Ephesus!"**
 - *Optional: Watch this Overview of Ephesians: [The Bible Project – Overview of Ephesians](#) (on YouTube. 8min).
 - *Pastor Shawn set up this series by explaining the **who, what, when & why** of the book of Ephesians.
 - a. Who wrote Ephesians? What did you learn about this book/letter the Bible that you didn't know before?
 - b. Where is Ephesus located and what were some of the things the ancient City of Ephesus was known for?
3. **All About Paul**
 - a. What do you know about the Apostle Paul? (his ethnicity, occupation, background, adventures & beliefs...)
 - How would you describe him? (his personality, character, spiritual gifts...)
 - b. If you could Interview Paul over Lunch...
 - where would you like to eat and what is one question you would ask him?
4. **The Church in Ephesus**
 - a. Why is Paul writing this Letter to the Ephesians? (see [Acts 19](#) for Background)
Ephesians was written to Christian believers in Ephesus (a city in modern-day Turkey) - to encourage them to think of themselves in a whole new way. Paul wanted them to think of themselves not as people who had once been involved in idol worship, illicit sex, and foolish philosophies, but as people in Christ—*people with a radically new identity*.
(Read [Ephesians 2:12-13](#))
 - b. What were the demographics of the Ephesian Church?
 - c. Read [Ephesians 1:1-2](#). How does Paul define the Christians in Ephesus?
 - What are the two things that God the Father has given to His people

- d. What do you think it means to be a “*faithful follower of Christ Jesus?*” (Ephesians 1:1)?
 > If you described someone that way what would be the criterion? Would others describe you/us this way?
- e. *Bonus* What does [Revelation 2:1-17](#) teach us about the Ephesian Church. (Recorded by the Apostle John)

5. Old vs New – The Power of Identity & Lordship

- a. How are the *Issues of Identity & Lordship* powerful in one’s life and in our world today?
 How can “*Identity*” be a source of life, strength, confusion and conflict? As a child, teen or adult?
- b. Much of Paul’s teaching addresses the *Power of Identity* and the *Transformation of Identity*.
 In just the first chapter of Ephesians Paul teaches us these truths about our *Identity in Christ*:
 We have been chosen & adopted by the Father (1:4-6) We have been redeemed by the Son (1:7-12)
 We have been sealed with the Spirit (1:13-14) We have been given resurrection power (1:19-20)
- c. For many of us, making God the Lord of our life isn’t a matter of *not wanting to*, it’s a matter of not quite *understanding how*. “*Lordship*” - is simply surrendering all that we are to God and *leaving our old self behind*.
 *How would you see the following verses demonstrate *principles of Lordship*?
 i. [Galatians 2:20](#) ii. [Romans 8:5-11](#) iii. [Ephesians 4:22-24](#)
- d. How are *Lordship & Identity* connected?
- e. If someone were to ask you what “*making God the Lord of your life*” means...
 how would you describe your journey?

Application & Prayer (15min)

1. [Read](#) or [Listen](#) to the **Book of Ephesians in one sitting this week.** (20-25min)
2. **Read/Study** the [Identity In Christ](#) statements & scriptures this week. (p.3).
3. **PRAY**
 - a. **Ask the Lord** to show you one thing (or area) in your life that He wants you to surrender control of, and allow Him Lordship over. Feel free to share with your group as a point of prayer.
 - b. **Highlight & Pray into one of our 2020 Prayer Goals:**

Lord, help me...

 - > **To develop a consistent daily devotional time with You.**
 - > **Do one thing I’ve never done before in order to know and experience You more.**
 - > **To seek out opportunities to pray for and with the people around me.**
 - c. **Pray for One Another** (as a large group or in groups of 3-4 people).

Resources:

- *Scripture Ref: <http://www.openbible.info/topics/lordship> / <http://www.openbible.info/topics/identity>
- *Book: [Who Do You Think You Are? Finding Your True Identity in Christ](#), Mark Driscoll. (Based on Ephesians)
- *YouTube Videos:
 - [Overview: Ephesians. \(The Bible Project\)](#) - [What is the Purpose of the Book of Ephesians? \(Bible Study Tools Videos\)](#)
 - [Background to the Book of Ephesians. \(The Beat by Allen Parr\)](#) - [The 7 Churches of Revelation \(Ephesus\) – It’s Background](#)

Your Identity in Christ

I AM ACCEPTED

- [John 1:12](#) I am God's child.
- [John 15:15](#) I am Christ's Friend.
- [Romans 5:1](#) I have been justified by God
- [1 Cor. 6:17](#) I am united with the Lord, & I am one spirit with Him.
- [1 Cor. 12:27](#) I am a member of Christ's Body (The Church)
- [Ephesians 1:1](#) I am a Saint.
- [Ephesians 1:5](#) I have been adopted as God's child.
- [Ephesians 2:18](#) I have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit.
- [Colossians 1:14](#) I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins.
- [Colossians 2:10](#) I am complete in Christ.
- [Hebrews 4:16](#) I can find grace and mercy in time of need.

I AM SECURE

- [Romans 8:1,2](#) I am free forever from condemnation.
- [Romans 8:28](#) I am assured that all things work together for His good.
- [Romans 8:31](#) I am free from any condemning charges against me.
- [Romans 8:35](#) I cannot be separated from the love of God.
- [2 Cor.1:21,22](#) I have been established, anointed, & selected by God.
- [Colossians 3:3](#) I am hidden with Christ in God.
- [Philippians 1:6](#) I am confident that God will complete His work in me.
- [2 Timothy 1:7](#) I have been given a spirit of power, love & a sound mind.
- [1 John 5:18](#) I am born of God, and the evil one cannot touch me.

I AM SIGNIFICANT

- [Matt. 5:13,14](#) I am the salt and light of the earth.
- [John 15:1-5](#) I am a branch of the True Vine, a channel of His life.
- [John 15:16](#) I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit.
- [Acts 1:8](#) I am a personal witness & ambassador of Christ's.
- [1 Cor. 3:16](#) I am God's temple (He live in me).
- [2 Cor. 5:17](#) I am a minister of reconciliation for God (a peacemaker).
- [2 Cor. 6:1](#) I am God's co-worker (1 Cor.3:9)
- [Ephesians 3:12](#) I may approach God with freedom and confidence.
- [Philippians 4:13](#) I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Announcements

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

>> Plan to share Communion as a Life Group in one of your meetings in February.

NEW MEN'S MORNING LIFE GROUP – Starting in February.

*Wednesdays. 9:30am-11am. Promontory. Leader – Darren Johnston. Contact Darren or Pastor Eryn to get connected.

MAIN STREET WOMEN: Winter Study - Faithful

*Wednesdays. February 12-March 11. 9am-10:30am. Chapel.

Explore crucial moments in the lives of five Old Testament figures—Queen Esther, Gideon, Hosea, Malachi, and Nehemiah. Strengthen your faith as you walk alongside these larger-than-life figures who all chose to obey God no matter the circumstances. Cost: \$25 – includes study journal & refreshments. Childcare provided.

*Please pre-register: www.mainstreetchurch.ca/women

BAPTISM SUNDAY

*Sun. March 1st. Morning Services. Info & Registration – www.mainstreetchurch.ca/baptism.

PARTNERSHIP CLASS

*Sun. March 1st. 6pm-8pm. Chapel. Coffee/Tea, Dessert & Childcare Provided.

If you have attended our Next Steps class and would like to learn more about partnering with us at Main Street Church please join us. *Partnership is required for those in leadership positions.*

Info & Registration – www.mainstreetchurch.ca/partnership

Apologetics Canada Conference 2020

*March 6-7. Northview Church, Abbotsford.

Apologetics Canada helps Christians speak the language of our culture and address questions being asked with intellectual honesty, gentleness, and respect.

Info & Registration: <https://apologeticscanada.com/apologetics-canada-conference-2020>

Special Life Group Leaders Huddle [More Info & Invitation Coming Soon!] – [Please Mark Your Calendars!](#)

*Dave Enns – from [North Coast Church](#) in San Diego – will be our guest speaker. North Coast Church has an amazing Small Group Culture, with over 5000 adult group participants (90% of the church adults). Dave Enns has been a key staff member of NCC since 1990.

Two of the books we recommend for Life Groups Leaders – [Sticky Church](#) & [Lead Like A Shepherd](#) – come from NCC Lead Pastor, Larry Osborne.

*This event is for current and potential Life Group Leaders. If you are interested in leading a Life Group please join us.

*Wed. March 11. 6pm-8pm. Main Street Chapel. Dinner & Childcare provided. Please RSVP to Pastor Eryn.

Weekly Announcements Email

Consider the [Weekly Announcement Email](#) from Main Street Church. Contact our Office to be added to the mailing list. It's another great way to stay informed and engaged in the life of our church.