



CHRIST

God sent Jesus Christ – the "Yes" and "Amen" to all His covenant promises – to save His people from their sins. Jesus came to the earth as the Word of God made flesh, and the Spirit of God was with Him to speak the Good News of the Kingdom being near now and coming fully again. He was born into poverty as part of an oppressed and ethnic minority people group – Nazarene Jews in the Galilee region of the Gentiles under the rule of the Roman Empire – working well to cultivate creation as a carpenter and growing in favor with God and man. As the Son of God, He was the only human to live a whole life of selfless, holy service in relationship to God, with other humans, and with all of creation. Jesus was good, true, and beautiful in who He was and how He lived. He made family members of people from all walks of life. He ate with them and gave Himself as the Bread of Life for them. He also calmed creation with His voice, and creation listened to His voice in harmony with what He said. All of Jesus' good, true, and beautiful work brought healing, redemption, and restoration. He received and He gave without taking. His message and life were loving God and loving others as He called people to turn back to relationship with God and each other, instead of continuing in selfish and destructive ways. He taught them how to seek first the Kingdom of heaven, so they could learn again how to rest in their identity from God the Father, and then responsibly work to serve the world around them. Jesus, the Son of Man, came to make the crooked paths of humanity straight by following every one of God's instructions and law, and walking in every one of God's ways so that people from every tribe, tongue, and nation could walk together in God's ways with Him. He did this to fulfill God's promise to Adam and Eve that the evil one would be crushed, the covenant promise to Noah and his family that the earth would not be condemned, the covenant promise to Abram and his family that their generations would bless all the peoples of the earth, the covenant promise to Moses and Israel that God's people would be a light to the nations and a kingdom of priests, and the covenant promise that the Kingdom He established in David's line would never be broken and that a King after God's own heart would sit on the throne. Jesus was the Redeemer, just like God with His people in Egypt, and the Rescuer who set men, women, and children of all kinds free from slavery. Jesus, whose name means "God saves," was the fulfillment of the ultimate plan and promise of Emmanuel, "God with us." He came and tabernacled among us as God's true temple, man with God and God with man, bringing together the Kingdom of heaven and earth, the meaning of the whole cosmos. His good news of the Kingdom of God was full of grace for the foreigner, the weak, the widow, the orphan, and the poor in spirit who knew their need of Him. He came to heal those who knew they were sick in heart and mind, and to seek and save the lost who were humbly hoping to be found by God. He resisted all the enemy's lies and obeyed all of God's Word. And He did this all when humanity so often played the enemy of God and His ways. The evil one's power play wasn't enough, and he felt the victorious impact of this anointed promised One's crushing power. But this also means that those who continued to listen to the lies of the enemy already thought they were right in their own view of the world and did not want Jesus to be the answer to their ungratefulness, entitlement, and separation from others they did not like. They did not think they were broken, so they did not want to listen to Jesus' good, true, and beautifully powerful words or follow Him, revealing their need of Him. Jewish leaders thought He was blasphemous by equating Himself with God. Romans thought He was crazy for even desiring to be a king of an oppressed and enslaved people.

So just like humanity didn't follow God's righteous reign in the beginning in the garden and broke relationship with Him and responsibility to the world, those in power when Jesus came to earth did not want Him to be God with them and reign over them either. They decided to break relationship with Him and any responsibility to Him by killing Jesus, the Messiah sent from God, outside their city, sacrificing the Son of Man and Son of God by crucifixion. Jesus, the Messiah, the anointed One who fulfilled the new covenant promise of restored relationship with God, and the responsible Servant King of God's Kingdom, was killed on a cursed cross as the perfect spotless Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Jesus took on and received the just punishment of sin and death we deserved. But, as God promised, after three days in the grave, Jesus was raised to life, defeating sin, death, and the evil one, and came back to invite us to trust in His death-defying words and walk in His evil-crushing ways. Jesus was the perfect Rescuer, Priest, King, Redeemer, Prophet, Provider, Promise-Maker, Promise-Keeper, Messiah, and Victor over all that is evil. God's ultimate plan of restoration and renewal to turn the tide of our human history was revealed and accomplished. His Kingdom purposes had been showcased, and the full extent of how far He would go to restore our relationship with Him was revealed.

– Mike Sullivan

Scriptures

[Matthew 16:15-17](#); [John 11:27](#); [Psalms 111:9, 130:7-8](#); [2 Corinthians 1:19-20](#); [Isaiah 52:7-53](#);
[Hebrews 8:6, 9:11-15](#); [Matthew 1:21-23](#); [Mark 10:45](#); [Luke 1:68, 22:14-20](#); [Acts 10:38](#);
[Romans 3:23-24, 8:18-25, 10:9-13](#); [1 Peter 2:24, 3:18](#); [1 Timothy 1:15](#); [2 Timothy 1:9-10](#); [Titus 2:11-14](#);
[Philippians 2:6-11](#); [John 1:29, 3:16-17](#); [1 John 3:8](#); [Hebrews 2:14-15](#); [Colossians 1:12-17, 2:13-15](#)

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: The Grand Story
Message: Scene IV - CHRIST
Speaker: Shawn Vandop
Date: October 22, 2023




Connect (30min)

*For *Connect* and *Prayer*, you may want to break into two groups, or groups of 3-4 people to enhance participation.

1. HIGH-LOW-HERO

- a. From this past week in your life:
Share a High, Low (Challenge), and a Hero (someone you noticed doing something heroic).

2. BLESS GOD

- a.  Have a couple people share the reading of [Psalm 111](#).
- b. Take 2min (timed) to *Bless God* with short prayers of thanksgiving and praise. “*Lord, I Bless You...*”


Message Discussion (45min)

1. HEROES

Since it is so likely that children will meet cruel enemies, let them at least have heard of brave knights and heroic courage. Otherwise, you are making their destiny not brighter but darker. - C.S. Lewis

- a. **Who are some memorable fictional Heroes?** Why are they memorable?
- b. **Who are some memorable real-life Heroes?** Why are they memorable?
- c. **In your life, is there anyone you would consider to be a Hero of Faith?** Why are they your Hero?
- d. **Have you ever thought of JESUS as your Hero?** And why?

2. The Grand Story - CHRIST

- a. **Briefly share your feedback on *Sunday's Message*.**
What connected with you, encouraged you, challenged you, or confused you? What did you learn?
- b.  READ [Philippians 2:5-11](#) & [Colossians 1:15-20](#)
 - i. **Why do we refer to Jesus as “Christ? What does “Christ” mean?**
 - ii. **Why is this important to understand?**

NOTE: *The term “Christ” is an English transliteration of the Greek title Christos; which, in turn, comes from the Greek Chrio (“to anoint”). It means, “anointed one.” This Greek title, Christos, was designated as the translation for the Old Testament Hebrew word with the same meaning. And in the Hebrew, the term “anointed one” is literally, Mashiah (which is, in turn, where we get the title “Messiah”). To put it another way, the term “Messiah” is actually a Hebrew word (Mashiah), which means “anointed one,” and “Christ” is the Greek translation. So, both “Christ” and “Messiah” mean “anointed one”.*

3. PROPHET-PRIEST-KING

- a. Shawn talked about **Jesus as the “Anointed One”** -- who perfectly models the roles of *Prophet, Priest and King*. Why is it important that we have an accurate understanding of who Jesus is?
- b. READ [Deuteronomy 18:15-19](#) & [Luke 9:28-35](#).
 - i. What does it mean to understand **Jesus as Prophet**? Discuss.
 - ii. How does Jesus as PROPHET affect you personally?
- c. READ [Hebrews 9:11-28](#).
 - i. What does it mean to understand **Jesus as Priest**? Discuss.
 - ii. How does Jesus as PRIEST affect you personally?
- d. READ [2 Samuel 7:11-16](#); [Matthew 2:1-2](#) & [Luke 1:31-33](#)
 - i. What does it mean to understand **Jesus as King**? Discuss.
 - ii. How does Jesus as KING affect you personally?

4. IMAGE-BEARERS

JESUS is the perfect *Chief Prophet, High Priest, and King of Kings!*

As *image-bearers* of God and disciples of Christ, each of us will reflect aspects of his character in different ways. He provides the church with men and women who can lead, and their specific abilities will usually tend toward *prophet, priest, or king*. A Prophet tends to be a proclaimer of the Gospel, a Priest tends to do the work of caring for the people of the Kingdom, and a King tends to be a leader and manager of God’s Kingdom resources.

- a. **Which one do you lean the most towards?** How has God wired you? Are you Prophetic, Priestly, or Kingly? Share with one another how God has “anointed” you to serve in His Kingdom.
- b. **Shawn emphasized the greatness of Jesus -- being above any other prophet, priest, or king.** Is Jesus in the rightful place within your heart? How do you maintain your perspective of God’s greatness? How can we all grow in this response and relationship?

Prayer (15min)

Pray for One Another -- That we would fully devote ourselves to our perfect *Prophet, Priest, and King Jesus*, and that we would invite Him to anoint us for the work He has prepared for us to do.

Resources

 **Watch** these short videos on YouTube.

- *[That’s My King – Dr. S.M. Lockridge](#) *[This is the Hope for the Evil that Affects Your Life](#) – The Bible Project
- *[The Victim, The Villain, The Hero, and The Guide](#) – Donald Miller

Sign up for our upcoming **Set Free Retreat**. November 3-4 at MSC. www.mainstreetchurch.ca/set-free

