

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: **UPSIDE DOWN** – *The Beatitudes* – Matthew 5:1-12

Message: **Part 7 – When No One is Looking** - Matthew 5:8

December 8, 2019. Speaker: Shawn Vandop – Lead Pastor



Connect (15-20min) – share refreshments.

a. Life Group “Family Photo”

*Take a Life Group Photo to send in to Pastor Eryn for our Church Year End Video...

b. Christmas in a Foreign Country

*If you had to celebrate Christmas in a foreign country next year which one would you choose and why?

c. Advent Focus

*Read [Isaiah 9:6](#) – Which of the four Names/Roles of Jesus (The Messiah) do you need to trust and experience most this Christmas season? *Wonderful Counselor – Mighty God – Everlasting Father – Prince of Peace*

Sunday Message Discussion (35-40min)

- 1. EMPOWER Feedback:** Did anyone from your life group attend our [EMPOWER Retreat](#)? Share your experience.
>> Spring 2020 Dates: SET FREE - April 3&4 // EMPOWER Retreat – May 1-2
- 2. Invite one person read the Beatitudes in [Matthew 5:1-12](#) & another person to open in Prayer:**
> **Has anyone memorized this passage (even verses 3-10) through the series? Share with the group.**
- 3. Pure Experience**
What are some things in life that most people would prefer to have a *pure experience* with?
(*In clean, clear, fresh, unhindered, unadulterated form...*)
e.g. *water, food, cell/wifi reception, music, a scenic view, sex...*
- 4. Read Matthew 5:8 -- *God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.***
The BIG IDEA: *God blesses those who invite Him to change their hearts.*
Message Feedback: Share your initial feedback on Sunday’s Message. *What impacted you the most and why?
- 5. Hypocrisy & Integrity.** Read [Matthew 7:5](#).
 - What does it mean to be a Hypocrite? *Share an example of hypocrisy from your own life.*
(We’ve all been a hypocrite at some point – by not living up to our own standards or expectations)
 - What does it mean to be a person of Integrity? *Share some characteristics and examples of integrity.*
- 6. Purity & Seeing God**
 - What do you think Jesus means by being *pure in heart*?
 - What do you think it means to *see God*? What are some of the *benefits of seeing God*?
- 7. Outward Appearance & Inward Reality.** Read [1 Samuel 16:6-7](#); [Psalm 139:1-6](#) & [Hebrews 4:12-13](#).
 - Describe a time when you have judged someone by their outward appearance.
 - Describe a time when someone has judge you by your outward appearance.
 - How does this contrast with the way that God looks at us?
 - Have you ever asked JESUS (as you read the Bible &/or in prayer) how He sees you? Share you experience.

8. Read [Ezekiel 36:25-27](#); [Psalm 51:1-13](#) & [Titus 2:11-14](#)
- Why can't we gain a pure heart on our own?
 - How can *religion* be an expression of our human strategy and effort to achieve purity/perfection on our own?
 - How is the good news (Gospel) and pathway of a relationship with Jesus Christ different?
9. Read [Psalm 15](#)
- How does the Psalmist describe a person of integrity in this song?
 - What does it mean to live a *blameless life*?
 - How is being *blameless* connected to *being a person of integrity*?
 - How is your integrity different from your reputation?
(Your reputation is what other people THINK you are. Your integrity is who you really are. Reputation is what people see. Integrity is what God sees/knows)
10. Read [2 Corinthians 5:16-18](#); [Psalm 51:10](#) (again) & [Psalm 139:23-24](#)
- *Shawn identified a "pure heart" or a "heart of integrity" as being *whole, authentic, and unmixed in its motivation*.
- When thinking about your own heart, which area (of character/purity/integrity) is the one that you feel you need to ask the Lord to transform the most right now?
 - How aware are you of what is in your heart?
How often do you take hold of a thought or feeling and run it by God, asking Him to make it pure in His eyes?
 - What can we do to be more aware of what is in our hearts before God? How can the following resources help us?
 - Studying God's Word (Bible), regularly, on our own. (reading plan, journaling, memorization...)
 - Studying/Discussing God's Word with others. (Sunday Services, Life Group...)
 - Praying on our own.
 - Praying with others.
 - Confession & Repentance (accountability, keeping short accounts, Set Free Retreat...)
 - The Conviction, Counsel and Filling of the Holy Spirit.

Application (5min)

It is the Lord who transforms our hearts. Take some time to pray together and ask God to change your heart. Pay attention to your thoughts and feelings about work, money, sex, people, and relationships. When you feel that your heart is veering off course, ask God to create a clean heart and call a friend in your Life Group to pray with you.

- Read & Memorize [Matthew 5:8](#) and [Psalm 139:23-24](#) this week.
- Thank the Lord for purifying you through Christ and invite the Holy Spirit to continue transforming your life.
- Encourage & Pray for another person in this area this week.

Prayer (20min)

>> **Based on our topic and discussion let's Share our requests, Praise God together, and Pray for one another.**

*Pray for the person on your left in these three areas:

- Pray for their Faith & spiritual growth
- Pray for their Family/Friends
- Pray for their Focus (work/school...)

Announcements

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

Remaining UPSIDEDOWN Series Schedule:

December 15 – How to Reconcile Relationships (Matthew 5:9)

Christmas Season at Main Street Church

Christmas HOPE Campaign 2019

*Assembly Day is Fri. December 13th. Starting at 7pm in our Chapel.

*Delivery Day is Sat. December 14th. Starting at 10am from our Chapel.

*Staff Contact: Eryn Moore.

Christmas Comedy Night – with Special Guest - [Steve Geyer](#)

This is our *Christmas Outreach* event and geared towards us inviting friends and family from the community.

Thur. December 12. Refreshments provided. This event is for ages 12 & up.

7pm. Tickets - \$10/person. Available [Online](#) and the Church Office.

Sun. December 22 : Christmas Sweater Sunday

Wear your festive swag.

9am & 10:45am

Tue. December 24 : Christmas Eve Services

3pm / 4:30pm / 6pm (1hr)

Sun. December 29 : Worship & Communion

9am & 10:45am

January 2020

PrayFirst 2020 – Our Annual 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting: January 6-26

ALPHA Course

Explore the Christian faith in an engaging & interactive environment. Invite your friends & family!

Mondays. January 13-March 16. 7pm-8:30pm. Main Street Chapel.+ Alpha Saturday. Feb. 29. 9am-2pm.

[Alpha Film Series Trailer](#) (on YouTube). Visit <https://mainstreetchurch.ca/alpha> for more Info & Registration.