

# Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Message: **I LOVE MY CHURCH – Part 3**

January 20, 2019



**Connect** (15min) – Share refreshments.

**SEASONS** – What is one blessing or joy and one challenge/struggle that Winter brings to your life?

**FOCUS** - Invite 1 Person to Read [John 1:1-14](#) & then Open in Prayer.

*JESUS, you are full of Grace & Truth, and you came to share that with us and save us. Please help us to grow in your grace and truth and embody it to the world around us. In Your Great Name we Pray, Amen.*

**PrayFirst** (10min)

January 7-27, 2019

\*Share some highlights, feedback or questions from your PrayFirst experience this past week:

\*What has God been teaching you through our 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting?

\*Join us for our **Supper & Summit on Sun. January 27<sup>th</sup>** as we celebrate and wrap up PrayFirst 2019.

>> 5pm – Dinner & 6pm – Worship, Prayer & Communion

**Sunday Message Feedback** (45min)

\***Speaker:** Shawn Vandop – Lead Pastor. **Message:** I LOVE MY CHURCH – Part 3.

- 1. What jumped out at you from Sunday's message?** What got you thinking?  
Do you have any initial questions or feedback?
- 2.** From your perspective, ***who is the church for?*** Discuss.
- 3. In your opinion, is it too easy or too hard to become a Christian?** Discuss.
- 4. Share the Reading of [Acts 15](#).** The controversy for the church at that time was over circumcision and dietary laws. What are contemporary sources of controversy for 'entry' into the Church today? Discuss.
- 5. Read [Acts 15:8](#)** – Have you ever been guilty of trying to read someone's heart through the way they act, dress, speak, etc.? Share an example if you can think of one.
- 6. Do you believe that God can change a heart before he changes a life?** Why/why not?
- 7. Read [Acts 15:19](#)** – What are some obstacles you can remove in your life/ministry that would make it easier for 'outsiders' to experience the love of Jesus.
- 8. One of our values as a church is – WE WILL BE RELENTLESS WITH TRUTH AND GRACE: *We will teach and model the hard truths of Jesus so that we can experience and model the deep grace of Jesus.***  
On a scale of 1-10, (1 being poor/10 being awesome) how would you rate our church on this value?  
Discuss as a group.

9. a. Has your experience with Christianity been more focused on grace or truth?  
How did that focus affect your view of Jesus? How did it affect your view of yourself?
- b. When it comes to '*Grace and Truth*' which one do you lean more towards now?  
(in other words, are you more prone to extend grace or state the truth) Why? Discuss.
10. Shawn talked about '*grace and truth*' and how Jesus fully embodied them both.
- a. Have you ever noticed this about JESUS as you read the Gospels (Matthew-Mark-Luke-John), or watched the story of Jesus in film?
- *Jesus never watered down the truth or turned down the grace.*
  - Like life, grace is not fair. Over and over Jesus leaned into and toward unrepentant sinners. He leaned toward guilty people. It was a new category. It was grace. In the person of Jesus, there was a new covenant maker in town.
- b. *Grace can only be experienced in the context of a relationship.*  
Why was Jesus coming to earth an essential part of God's plan to give us grace?
11. **Grow in Truth & Grace:** It is important to realize that we are not called to balance grace and truth in our lives but to be the full embodiment of grace and truth as Jesus was.  
**So - How can we mature in grace & truth with Jesus?**  
**Consider the steps/process needed to help you fully embody these traits of Jesus:**
- a. How can we grow in godly Grace?
  - b. How can we grow in godly Truth?
  - c. How can we apply them together like Jesus did & still does today?
12. Shawn closed the message by challenging us to avoid Three Drifts:
- a. **We need to avoid the drift towards insiders and away from outsiders.**
  - b. **We need to avoid the drift toward law and away from grace.**
  - c. **We need to avoid the drift toward preserving rather than advancing.**

## Application & Prayer (15-20min)

### \*CONSIDER:

Which Drift do you most identify with and why? Discuss steps as a group that you can take that will keep you from drifting towards any of these. Use this time to pray for one another.

Shawn challenged us as we grow in our love for the church to make 3 commitments:

1. **Be Bold – Be more concerned with who we are reaching than who we are keeping.**
2. **Always err on the side of grace**
3. **Remain open handed**

Using short-sentence prayers give thanks to God for His Truth & Grace in our lives and Pray as a group to be committed to these actions in your life.

### \*YOUR MOVE: EXPLORE & BE INSPIRED by the TRUTH & GRACE of JESUS

Read/Listen through one or more of the Gospels and highlight the applications of Truth & Grace by Jesus.

## Announcements

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

### Sunday Morning Prayer

Every Sunday at 8:15am in the Care Centre.

### Wednesday Morning “Drop-In” Prayer

January 23. 7am-9am in the Chapel.

### Supper & The Summit

Sun. January 27<sup>th</sup>. Light Supper at 5pm. Worship-Prayer-Communion at 6pm.

### Volunteer Appreciation Night

Sun. January 27<sup>th</sup>. Light Supper at 5pm. Worship-Prayer-Communion at 6pm.

Register Online: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/main-street-church-volunteer-appreciation-night-tickets-54931749341>

### Partnership Class

Sun. February 10<sup>th</sup>. 6pm-8pm. Chapel.

Learn about how you can Partner with the life and ministry of Main Street Church. Register online or at Guest Services.