

# **Growth Group Questions**

*Reformation Sunday, October 30, 2022*

## **Getting to Know Each Other**

The Lutheran celebration of Reformation is not so much about remembering the men God used in the 1500s but the Gospel God preached through them. That said, it's not a terrible idea to remember the history and setting of the Reformation. As a group, see what you can remember about the church at Luther's time, about Luther's life, and why a Reformation was needed.

## **Into the Word**

We often think of Reformation truths through the lens of the great "sola" statements. Grace alone. Faith alone. Scripture alone. More recently we hear added to these "Christ alone." Think of each of our readings this weekend as a statement on the three solas.

- Jeremiah 31:31-34 reminds us we are saved by God's grace alone. What was the Old Covenant God had with his people Israel and how is the new covenant different in both where it is and what it says?
- Some might be confused by verse 34's statement that people will no longer teach their neighbor or tell people "Know the Lord." Why will it be unnecessary to teach or evangelize when this covenant is finally, completely, fulfilled?
- Galatians 5:1-6 perhaps connects most closely to the sola "faith alone." What does Paul describe as the purpose of the law?
- Circumcision was a well-known part of God's Old Testament law. What was its purpose? Can you think of any blessings from God that have been turned into burdens of obedience by some? (*Think of sacraments...*)
- John 8:31-36 connects well with the sola "Scripture alone." What does Jesus say is the mark of his disciples? How do you align this with his Maundy Thursday declaration that people would recognize his followers by their love for one another?

- In what different ways does the Gospel of Jesus free a person who knows that truth?
- How does knowing freedom in Christ help us to reprioritize our lives?

## **Putting into Practice**

- Think of someone in your life that is burdened or trapped in their sin. Without sharing their name, pray for them as a group.
- The book of Romans was crucial to Luther's rediscovery of the free and true Gospel. Consider reading it on your own this week.
- Consider ways that you might use your freedom from sin to help a brother or sister grow in faith this week.

## **Prayer**

Savior Jesus, you took all my sin and exchanged it with me for all your righteousness. Turn my heart away from any thought of self-righteousness and instead lead me to put all my trust in you. Help me celebrate the message of forgiveness by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. Amen.

# **Growth Group Questions**

*Reformation Sunday, October 30, 2022*

## **Getting to Know Each Other**

The Lutheran celebration of Reformation is not so much about remembering the men God used in the 1500s but the Gospel God preached through them. That said, it's not a terrible idea to remember the history and setting of the Reformation. As a group, see what you can remember about the church at Luther's time, about Luther's life, and why a Reformation was needed.

## **Into the Word**

We often think of Reformation truths through the lens of the great "sola" statements. Grace alone. Faith alone. Scripture alone. More recently we hear added to these "Christ alone." Think of each of our readings this weekend as a statement on the three solas.

- Jeremiah 31:31-34 reminds us we are saved by God's grace alone. What was the Old Covenant God had with his people Israel and how is the new covenant different in both where it is and what it says?
- Some might be confused by verse 34's statement that people will no longer teach their neighbor or tell people "Know the Lord." Why will it be unnecessary to teach or evangelize when this covenant is finally, completely, fulfilled?
- Galatians 5:1-6 perhaps connects most closely to the sola "faith alone." What does Paul describe as the purpose of the law?
- Circumcision was a well-known part of God's Old Testament law. What was its purpose? Can you think of any blessings from God that have been turned into burdens of obedience by some? (*Think of sacraments...*)
- John 8:31-36 connects well with the sola "Scripture alone." What does Jesus say is the mark of his disciples? How do you align this with his Maundy Thursday declaration that people would recognize his followers by their love for one another?

- In what different ways does the Gospel of Jesus free a person who knows that truth?
- How does knowing freedom in Christ help us to reprioritize our lives?

## **Putting into Practice**

- Think of someone in your life that is burdened or trapped in their sin. Without sharing their name, pray for them as a group.
- The book of Romans was crucial to Luther's rediscovery of the free and true Gospel. Consider reading it on your own this week.
- Consider ways that you might use your freedom from sin to help a brother or sister grow in faith this week.

## **Prayer**

Savior Jesus, you took all my sin and exchanged it with me for all your righteousness. Turn my heart away from any thought of self-righteousness and instead lead me to put all my trust in you. Help me celebrate the message of forgiveness by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. Amen.