

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

5 Solas*Sola Scriptura: According to Scripture Alone*

REVIEW

Salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone according to Scripture alone for the glory of God alone. These “5 Solas” have become the tagline of the Protestant Reformation that began 500 years ago. Saints from the past, most notably, Martin Luther, sought to reform the Catholic church by returning to the pure, unadulterated word of God that revealed an assured salvation by the merits of Jesus alone, not by the works of man. Throughout October, we’ll examine these “5 Solas” being reminded of the beauty of the one, true gospel.

APPLY // ACTS 4:12

1. Read Acts 4:1-12
2. Why did Peter have so much gospel boldness? Why do we often lack such gospel boldness? How can we cultivate such confidence in Christ?
3. Why is the theology of verse 12 often seen as arrogant and narrow-minded? How would you explain that it’s not arrogant to believe Christ is the only way for salvation?
4. How does “Solus Christus” – salvation in Christ alone – encourage you on your bad days? How does it inform your good days?
5. How does “Solus Christus” fuel our discipling of those who already trust in Christ?
6. How does “Solus Christus” encourage our sharing of the gospel with those who do not know and trust in Christ Jesus?

STUDY // 2 TIMOTHY 3:15-17

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God’s word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

NOTE: We’ll be discussing the historic 5 Solas over the five weeks. While distinct, much of the truths overlap one another. Therefore, our discussions, especially the first three weeks, will highlight similar truths. That’s okay. We should never get over the gospel of being saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone according to Scripture alone for God’s glory alone.

1. Read 2 Timothy 1:1-2. Who is Timothy (cf. Acts 16:1-4)? Why is Paul writing to him (cf. 1 Tim. 1:3-14)?
2. Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17.

3. According to verse 13, what is Paul's concern? See also, 2:16; 23; 4:3-4.
 4. How does this same concern apply us today?
 5. Paul instructs Timothy to not pay attention to false teachers, but to the sacred writings, i.e., Scripture, which are "able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ." How does the Bible do "make us wise for salvation..."? Why is Scripture necessary for salvation?
 - a. NOTE: The necessity of Scripture for salvation does not mean that a person must read the Bible to be saved. Rather, it implies that Scripture is needed to reveal God's holiness, man's sinfulness and Christ's redeeming work (perfect life, sin-paying death, resurrection) of all those who repent and believe. These words and truths can come to us in written form, verbal form, etc. The point is that we would not know these truths unless God revealed them to us in his word.
 6. What does it mean that "all Scripture is breathed out by God"? What does this tell us about the origin of Scripture? What does this tell us about the authority of Scripture?
 - a. NOTE: "All Scripture" would refer first to the OT but by implication also to at least some NT writings, which by this time were already being considered as Scripture (see 1 Tim. 5:18 and note; 2 Pet. 3:15-16). Further, given the consistency of the canon, we can infer from 2 Timothy 3:16 that all Scripture – both the OT and NT – are inspired by God.
 7. Discuss how Scripture is profitable for teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness.
 8. According to verse 17, Scripture is able to make us "complete, equipped for every good work." What does this mean? What doesn't it mean?
 9. How does the sufficiency of Scripture inform the way we use God's word in discipling relationships? In parenting? In evangelism? In church decisions?
- General Bible study questions:
 - What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
 - What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
 - How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
 - How should I respond with my affections and my actions?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: What do you enjoy most about the gospel?