

## CERTAIN – SOLA FIDE

### ABOUT THIS WEEK

In our series Certain we'll look at how the certain truths of the Reformation give us a certain hope in uncertain of times. Each week will focus on one of the five solas of the Reformation: Sola Scriptura, Sola Gratia, Sola Fide, Solus Christus, and Soli Deo Gloria. As we do, we'll show how each concept doesn't just have the power to reform the Church but to also reform our lives!

### ITEMS NEEDED

Bibles                       Pens

### CHECKLIST BEFORE YOUR GROUP ARRIVES

Pray for your group       Read through the Discussion Guide       Refreshments (optional)  
 Clean meeting area       Clean bathroom                                       Crack front door

### OPENING (10-12 MIN)

*After a general welcome, ask:* Let's get our head wrapped around today's topic–

### **HAVE YOU EVER BEEN SCAMMED INTO BUYING SOMETHING OR DOING SOMETHING THAT WAS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE?**

*After a brief discussion, say:* Sometimes a gift is too good to be true, but sometimes it's everything it promises to be and more! The idea of salvation by faith alone (in Latin *sola fide*) sounds too good to be true, but as we'll see today, it's everywhere in Scripture. As we explore the topic of *sola fide*, you'll see how the truths of the Reformation not only have the power to reform the church, but to also reform our lives.

Before we get started, will you please pray with me?

### OPENING PRAYER (1 MIN)

*Host, lead the group in prayer.*

### FAITH IS EASY (5-7 MIN)

*After the prayer say:* On Sunday we heard the central idea that we are saved by faith in the redemptive work of Christ alone, and that it doesn't depend on us, at all, whatsoever! Our job is to just believe.

There's a famous conversation the Reformer Martin Luther had with a student. After Martin talked about how Scripture teaches salvation by faith alone, the student asked, "So it doesn't depend on me at all?" Luther told him, "Correct." The student then protested and said, "It can't be that easy." To which Luther replied, "You think faith is easy?"

### **HOW IS THE STUDENT RIGHT WHEN HE CALLED SALVATION BY FAITH "EASY"?**

### **HOW IS MARTIN CORRECT WHEN HE TAUGHT THAT SALVATION BY FAITH IS "HARD"?**

**EXPLORING FAITH (10-12 MIN)**

Say: The faith we're talking about isn't faith in faith. And it's not faith that the miraculous are possible. It's faith in Jesus' death and resurrection. More specifically, it's faith that Jesus is who he says he is, and faith that Jesus does what he says he does. We're going to read a few statements and ask the same question—

**WHAT DO WE LEARN ABOUT FAITH IN THIS READING?****ROMANS 3:28****ROMANS 5:1****PHILIPPIANS 3:9****HEBREWS 11:1****WHY IS IT APPEALING TO BELIEVE THAT WE CAN DO SOMETHING TO EARN OUR SALVATION? (FAITH PLUS SOMETHING ELSE.)****APPLYING FAITH (10-12 MIN)**

Say: Our sermon on Sunday ended by applying the doctrine of "faith alone" to our daily lives. In particular, three areas: self-justification, self-condemnation, approval-seeking.

**HOW DO YOU SEE PEOPLE TRYING TO JUSTIFY THEMSELVES IN EVERYDAY LIFE?****WHERE DO YOU SEE PEOPLE DEMONSTRATING SELF-CONDEMNATION IN EVERYDAY LIFE? (I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH STATEMENTS.)****FINALLY, WHERE DO YOU SEE PEOPLE DEMONSTRATING APPROVAL-SEEKING IN EVERYDAY LIFE?****IF YOU'RE COMFORTABLE SHARING, WHICH OF THESE THREE DO YOU STRUGGLE WITH THE MOST?****FINALLY, HOW DOES THE IDEA THAT YOU ARE APPROVED/FORGIVEN/JUSTIFIED BY GOD BY "FAITH ALONE" HELP?****CLOSING PRAYER (5 – 7 MIN)**

*After a discussion, say:* May God continue to know the truth of sola fide for certain so it can reform our lives.

**AS WE CLOSE TODAY, DOES ANYONE HAVE ANY PRAYER REQUESTS?**

*Host, after taking prayer requests, close out the group in prayer.*