

CERTAIN – SOLA GRATIA

ABOUT THIS SERIES

In our series Certain we'll look at how the certain truths of the Reformation give us a certain hope in uncertain 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, say: Let's get our head wrapped around today's topic—

WHAT'S THE BEST GIFT YOU'VE EVER RECEIVED?

After a brief discussion say: There's power in a gift. But a gift isn't earned, that's compensation. And a gift isn't deserved, that's obligation. A gift that's truly a gift is... well... a gift!

Today we're going to dive deep into this idea of grace—a gift—as we continue our series *Certain* where we're going through the five “solas” of the Reformation to see how they not only reformed the Church but have the power to reform our lives. As you'd expect, today we're talking about *Sola Gratia*, Latin for “grace alone”.

But first, let's pray!

OPENING PRAYER (1 MIN)

Host, lead the group in prayer.

OUR IDEA OF GRACE (7-10 MIN)

After the prayer say: On Sunday we heard that grace is receiving the good we DON'T deserve. As opposed to justice, which is receiving what we DO deserve. And mercy is NOT receiving what we do deserve.

Those are definitions, but let's talk about what grace might look like in some real-life scenarios.

YOUR CATCH YOUR KID TAKING MONEY OUT OF YOUR PURSE. HOW WOULD GRACE RESPOND?

YOUR SPOUSE FORGETS TO TAKE OUT THE TRASH ON TRASHDAY FOR THE SECOND WEEK IN A ROW. HOW WOULD GRACE RESPOND?

YOU WATCH SOMEONE BACK INTO YOUR CAR AND PUT A DENT IN YOUR FENDER IN THE WAL-MART PARKING LOT. HOW WOULD GRACE RESPOND?

IN THE SCENARIOS WE JUST DISCUSSED, DESCRIBE THE EMOTIONS YOU FEEL IF YOU WERE PERSON GIVING GRACE.

NOW, DESCRIBE YOUR EMOTIONS IF YOU WERE THE GUILTY PERSON WHO RECEIVED GRACE?

After a discussion, say: Grace is something that appears too extreme, too easy, too enabling, until we're the one who's guilty. Then we're forever grateful and forever changed.

JESUS' IDEA OF GRACE (7-10 MIN)

Jesus recognized the tension of giving and receiving grace in one of his parables.

CAN SOMEONE READ MATTHEW 20:1-16 ALOUD FOR US?

WHAT'S JUSTICE IN THIS STORY?

WHAT'S GRACE IN THIS STORY?

After a discussion, say: There's an interesting moment in Jesus' parable where the landowner says, "Are you envious because I am generous?" On Sunday, Pastor Chris talked about grace isn't an emotion to feel, it's something that must be shown or given.

IF YOU'RE COMFORTABLE SHARING, WHO IS SOMEONE ON YOUR HEART RIGHT NOW THAT IS IN NEED OF YOUR GRACE?

CLOSING PRAYER (5 – 7 MIN)

After a discussion, say: May God continue to help us understand the truth of sola gratia 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.