

**Finding God in His Word** (Read John 4:1-26)

- What are some reasons you would give for studying or knowing about the history of the church?
- When you hear about the Protestant Reformation, what comes to your mind?
- How would you answer the question, Why does the Reformation matter?
- Read the bio on John Wycliff. Why do you think there is a natural resistance to change and reform? In what ways did Wycliff set the stage for the reformation that would take place in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century?
- One of the issues Martin Luther wanted to see reformed was the sale of indulgences to people. I have attached an article on indulgences if you would like to get more detailed information, but in short an indulgence was a piece of paper someone could purchase from the Catholic Church that said the church was granting a certain number of years off of the persons time that would be spent in purgatory (an intermediate place between Hell and Heaven that a person would go to until they had paid enough penance to go to Heaven). Given this as a basic understanding, what would some of the problems be, if any, of an indulgence? Why might someone want to see these be reformed or removed from the teaching of the church?
- The Reformers were driven by four major questions:
  - o How is a person saved?
  - o Where does religious authority lie?
  - o What is the church?
  - o What is the essence of Christian living? Discuss with your group how you would answer these questions.
- How do your answers agree or differ from the way the Reformers would answer?
- Are these questions still pertinent today (why or why not)?
- We will get into the five solas more over the next several weeks. What are your thoughts on the distinction between necessity and sufficiency, and the importance of seeing the five solas in the context of “alone”?

**Live the Christ Life**

1. Why do we need to know the true gospel? What is at stake? What do we gain or lose from not knowing our history? What are you needing to assess or reform in your own life as it relates to being a disciple and follower of Jesus?