

Open Your Heart and Mind

- Have someone in your group share their testimony of coming to know Christ.

Finding God in His Word (Galatians 2:15-21)

- Read the quote from the top of the notes sheet. Why does Sola Fide bear the whole weight of salvation on its shoulders?
- Sola Fide is considered to be the heart and soul of the Reformation. Why do you think that is? Why would/does Sola Fide give passion to a Christian?
- While the emphasis in the phrase is on faith, the full issue was justification by faith. Discuss what your thoughts and understanding on justification by faith alone is. Why must we be justified before God? Why does it matter how we are justified before God?
- The Catholic view is of justification by an infused righteousness, while the Reformers view was of justification by imputed righteousness. What are the differences between the two? Read through Romans 5, and discuss how Adam's unrighteousness and Christ's righteousness have been imputed to human beings.
- Read Galatians 2:15-21. Why is living morally not trusting Christ by faith? What role does moral living/obedience play in a Christian's life? Is it important? Why/why not?
- Why do we need Jesus as the fulfillment of the Law? How does Jesus fulfill the Law? What does this mean for someone who is trusting Christ for salvation? What would be some implications, if Jesus had not fulfilled the Law?
- If the Law is only an accuser, exposer, and revealer of sin but unable to save, why do we have a tendency to want to go back to Law so often in our lives? In other words, why do we have a tendency to drift away from faith alone to faith and works? In what ways do you do this?
- How does God's action make us alive to God? (Read Ephesians 2:1-5)
- Why is it important to understand that when we are crucified with Christ the totality of our lives are in view (past, present, and future sin)? How do we balance in the experience of our lives that all our sin has been atoned for and yet we are still under the burden of sin as Christians (Read 1 John 1:5-10)
- We nullify the grace of God when we say the cross is not enough. How do we/you do that in our lives?
- How does a healthy and full understanding of Sola Fide help us to guard against self-righteousness?

Live the Christ Life

1. What things are you trusting in other than Christ for salvation? What works do you think give you an advantage to knowing God?