**Connect Group Leader Guide**

**Sola #1**

**BEGIN WITH YOUR EXPERIENCE**

**This is a great set of questions to honestly explore the importance you put on the Bible in your life. That is, IF you can get your group to open up and be honest with each other (anyone have any truth serum handy?). I would suggest that after everyone has answered the questions on their own, you begin this discussion having EVERYONE in the group share a struggle they have with engaging with Scripture. Then from there, have the group share ways they have found success in engaging with Scripture as a way of encouraging each other with creative ways to address common struggles. Take some time with this opening discussion, because if the group is not honest here, the rest of the study will not get past the defenses that may still be up. Pray that the Spirit will use this discussion to honestly open hearts for God’s Word to speak during the rest of the study.**

**LOOK IN THE WORD**

**As you read these passages and discuss the questions, be thinking of ways that these passages address the discussion that came up in the Begin with Your Experience discussion above. You could do this study in 10 minutes if you fly through it, but challenge people to engage with God’s Word based on the struggles they shared at the beginning of your time together. Are the ideas you read here ideas that you give passive assent to or are they deeply held convictions? What’s the difference?**

**MY LIFE- OUR MISSION**

**As the group processes the application of this study, it seems like a good opportunity for you as a leader to share a personal story of something you have done in the past to make the Bible a more prevalent part of your life again. Did you make a commitment and stick with it? Did you try a new approach to Scripture and struggle with it? Have you ever had success memorizing Scripture? Share what you have done or plan to do to grow in this area personally.**

**Announcements:**

**Men’s Kick-Off** Speaker, ISU basketball coach Steve Prohm, and a fantastic meal. That's what awaits you at our annual men's kickoff event! Join us October 15 at 6:00p in the gym to hear Steve Prohm, ISU men's basketball coach, share about his spiritual journey. Tickets can be purchased through October 15.

**Discovery Fellowship** Discovery Fellowship is an orientation to Christ Community Church for those who want to learn more about church membership. Our next Discovery Fellowship is Thursday, October 5, 7:00 - 8:30p in Room C8 & 9. If you plan to attend, call the church office [232-2765] by October 3.

**Host a Dinner at Main Event** - Iowa State Navs are hosting the Main Event conference this October! We need families to host a dinner in their home for 6-8 students on October 21 from 5:15-7:30p. They will share about their relationship with Christ and what He means to them and engage students to share about God's work in their lives. Go to [www.navsmainevent.org](http://www.navsmainevent.org) and click on Host Dinners.

**No Passport Required -** Join us for a glimpse of what it's like crossing cultures with international students. Come and be exposed to a vision for touching the world from right here, without a passport! Sunday afternoon, **October 8** from **4–5:30** will be a great time of learning. The time will include testimonies from current students as well as some easy first steps for engaging with students.

**Join the Choir** - Classic Choir sings in the Classic Services once a month. If you are interested, contact

Peggy Dieter, 233-9208, peggy.dieter@gmail.com.

**SOLA #1 – Scripture Alone**  Connect Group Study #1

Pastor David Staff

INTRO: This week’s teaching explored some basic questions about THE REFORMATION, the 500th anniversary of which is being noted and celebrated around the world. While many precipitating factors over several centuries gave birth to the Reformation, most mark the day (October 31, 1517) when a monk named Martin Luther nailed “95 Theses” (statements for public debate) – concerning the sale of *indulgences* (certificates of forgiveness) -- on the front door of the Catholic Cathedral in Wittenburg, Germany. Luther had come to the Biblical conviction that the sale of such certificates could not be supported by the Scriptures. He wanted to discuss and debate this issue openly, with the officials of the Church, and before the people. He was driven by a conviction that the SCRIPTURES ALONE (*Sola Scriptura*) was the authoritative voice of the Spirit of God.

This study explores the importance of the Scriptures as well as the living, authoritative voice of God through the Scriptures. Do we believe that the Scriptures are the supreme authority and sufficient voice of God in our lives?

**BEGIN WITH YOUR EXPERIENCE**

Begin with an exercise which explores how important the Bible is to your daily life. How would you honestly answer the following questions:

* *I consult the Scriptures for guidance in life… each day once/twice wk less than this*
* *I regularly memorize Scripture yes no occasionally*
* *I engage in conversations about Scripture each day once/twice wk less than this*
* *I process tough questions with Scripture usually rarely*
* *I read/listen to Scripture-based resources weekly monthly rarely*
* *I am satisfied with Scripture’s place in my life yes no somewhat*

Share candidly together about why you answered the questions the way you did

**LOOK IN THE WORD**

Martin Luther pressed the Church about what he believed was wrong, especially about withholding the Scriptures from the common person so that he/she could hear God speaking *through Scripture* to them, without the intermediary of a church official or scholar. Luther would translate a copy of Scripture from Latin into common German, that people could read it for themselves. He said, *“The neglect of Scripture, even by spiritual leaders, is one of the greatest evils in the world. Everything else, arts or literature, is pursued and practiced day and night, and there is no end of labor and effort; but Holy Scripture is neglected as though there were no need of it.”*

EXPLORE TWO PASSAGES
 (1) Read **2 Timothy 3:12-16** together. Discuss what you hear Paul teaching about a) What are the times in which we live? b) What is the importance of familiarity with Scripture? and c) What are the specific benefits and outcome of Scripture intake and application?

 (2) Read **Hebrews 4:11-13** together. Discuss a) the danger before our lives (vs. 11), b) the role of the Word of God in our lives (vs. 12), and c) the accountability we have before God.

**MY LIFE - OUR MISSION**

Martin Luther said, “Whoever wants to hear God speak should read holy Scripture.” The CCC life-question which addresses this week’s *Sola* is “Does God make my day?” As you think about the place and role of Scripture in your life…

* are there any personal mid-course correction steps you need to take to be more regularly in a listening posture before the Lord?
* any steps to take with your family to simply to listen to and discuss God’s word in the course of life (cf. Joshua 1:8, Deuteronmy 6:4-8)
* is it timely to seek some “coaching” from a pastor or godly friend to seek the Word become more of a presence and influence in your life?

Thanks! Let’s give the wonderful word of God its right place in our hearts and in our living.