

## CONNECT GROUP QUESTIONS SOLA SCRIPTURA

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.

### Begin with Your HEART

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

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

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

### 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](#), [Deuteronomy 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.