**Connect Group Leader Guide**

**Sola #2**

**BEGIN WITH YOUR EXPERIENCE**

**As you read the statements from the conclusion of the Barna survey, look for yourself in these trends. Which trends are closer to describing your view of Scripture and which trends describe a view that is the opposite of your life? Most of these trends are obviously heading in a negative direction – so you may have to encourage your group to answer honestly about ways that their lives reflect these trends. There is a lot of possible discussion in this study – so be thoughtful about pacing the group discussion to get to each of the elements you want to spend time on.**

**LOOK IN THE WORD**

**This passage shares another great real-life example of the rediscovery of God’s word similar to what happened in the Reformation. At the heart of this study is a chance for each individual in your group to wrestle with their own engagement with scripture. As a leader, here is another opportunity to think about how to pace your group through some great questions. I would encourage you to be ok with short answers for some of the questions and focusing in on #2, #4, and the FINAL question. The main point is to thoughtfully help the group pace themselves through this discussion to have time to get to the application in the final section.**

**MY LIFE- OUR MISSION**

**As the group processes the application of this study, have someone read each passage of Scripture and ask someone else to highlight the main point from that text. After you have heard a brief summary for each passage, take some time to process the application of the passages as a whole, rather than discussing the application of each one individually. Enjoy the discussion – but keep bringing the group back to the personal application of what you’ve studied rather than any thought about what’s wrong with “the country” or “other people”.**

**CONNECT GROUP LEADER TIP – Have you split up your group into smaller groups for prayer recently? Divide up into groups of 3-4 or split up the men and the women to give people more time to share and actually pray..**

**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.

**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.

**Pumpkin Painting & Praise** - Join us on Thursday, October 19 at 7:00p in C1 at Christ Community Church! Wear a cozy sweater, bring your pumpkin spice latte, and grab a friend or two! We’ll have some fall snacks to share and materials for painting. This is a BYOP [bring your own pumpkin] event, but let us know if you need us to get you one! kwhite@ccames.org.

**Harvest Party** Join us Friday, October 13 at 6:00p for an evening of fall traditions and fun! We will roast hotdogs and smores, decorate pumpkins, watch a pie-eating contest and enjoy the annual hayrack ride. This is a perfect way to meet internationals in a relaxed setting and have a great time with the whole family! We encourage you to take this opportunity to reach out to the international community.

**SOLA #2 – Scripture Alone/Faith Alone**  Connect Group Study #2

***Celebrating the Gospel Gains of the Reformation*** Pastor David Staff

INTRO: This week’s teaching explored the key convictions about SCRIPTURE and FAITH which were at the heart of the Reformation. Imbedded were two important observations

* Without the recovery of the authority of Scripture, and the availability of the Scriptures, the revival of Jesus’ church is difficult to imagine
* Without the recovery of salvation through simple faith, the Gospel was dangerously becoming a law of works, voice of true hope.

This study explores why the Word of God and a salvation-through-faith Gospel bring joy and hope to our lives, and to the lives of others.

**BEGIN WITH YOUR EXPERIENCE**

In 2014 research, George Barna noted 6 trends related to our views and use of the Bible.

 <https://www.barna.com/research/the-state-of-the-bible-6-trends-for-2014/#.U0VhiVhOXDc>

1. Bible skepticism is now tied with Bible engagement-we tend to be skeptical about the sacredness of the Bible
2. Despite skepticism, Americans claim to be “pro-Bible”
3. Distraction and busyness continue to squeeze out the Bible
4. The age of screens has come to stay in the Bible market (though most continue to want it in print)
5. Americans come to the Bible when needing comfort or answers (though the # who believe the Bible is important to connecting with God is shrinking from 64% to 56%)
6. People are less likely to link moral decline with a lack of Bible reading.

*Where do you find yourself in these “trends”?* For example, Do you have more “skeptical” questions about the Bible? When you connect with God personally (God making your day), does the Bible play a key role in this?

**LOOK IN THE WORD**

In studying the Reformation, Dr. Scott Manetsch of *Trinity Evangelical Divinity School* notes that “For Protestant Reformers such as Luther, Zwingli, Calvin, or Martin Bucer, the study of Holy Scripture offered readers not only a collection of devotional insights, but the very essence of the Christian Gospel. Through the Bible, God himself spoke to his people. Luther commented ‘This book, the holy Scripture, is the Holy Spirit’s book’.”

**The recovery and reading of the Scriptures can always be a life-changing event**. Life changing for us, and for others around us. Take time to read what happened in 2 Kings 22:1-20, as a young Josiah becomes King in Jerusalem. By God’s grace, he does not follow in the footsteps of his predecessors. After you read the chapter together, discuss the following questions:

#1 In your own words, how would state 1 Kings 22:2 (the description of Josiah)?

#2 Someone “tell the story” – what happened first, then second, then third…etc.

#3 Why do you think Josiah reacted the way he did in vs. 11? (Jewish significance of tearing clothes?

demonstrating what?)

#4 What was so urgent about this situation?

#5 How did the Lord respond to Josiah?

Similarly, there was in THE REFORMATION a great passion for the rediscovery of the Scriptures, to hearing what God’s Spirit has to say. FINAL QUESTION: **What would you identify as the 3 most important things God has to say to us through the Scriptures?**

**MY LIFE - OUR MISSION**

Desiderius Erasmus, the brilliant humanist whose scholarship gave great momentum to THE REFORMATION, had deep convictions about the Bible. He said, “Let everyone read, therefore, but let anyone who wants to profit from this reading read soberly and alertly—not as if he were reading some story of human history with no bearing on his life—but avidly, earnestly, attentively.”

Our effectiveness in “connecting people to life-defining relationships in Christ” is enhanced when we are hearing from God every day. God’s word – not only reverenced, but read avidly, obediently – can prepare us for “every good work” (2 Timothy 3:17).

TO FINISH – **review what the Word says** about…and then **pray about increasing the role** of these truths in your lives.

1. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GOSPEL: 1 Corinthians 15:1-5, and Galatians 1:6-10
2. THE CLARITY OF THE WORD: Psalm 119:17-24, 105-112, Hebrews 4:11-13, 1 Peter 1:22-2:3