

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of November 5, 2017

This Week's Focus: The Five Solas of the Reformation: *Sola Gratia*

This Week's Text: Ephesians 2:1-10

"The true treasure of the church is the most holy gospel of the glory and grace of God." **Martin Luther**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What has the Holy Spirit impressed on your heart and mind from this week's sermon/text?
- What is the human condition that Paul summarizes in Ephesians 2:1-3? When did sin enter the created order? What is the *Imago Dei*, and in what ways has it been effected by sin? What is God's just penalty for sin?
- Discuss what it means to be spiritually dead. What does it mean to "follow the course of this world"? When did God first reveal to you the reality of your spiritual deadness and the beauty of his grace in Jesus Christ?
- Who is the "prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience"? Share some ways you have experienced attacks by the spiritually dark forces of Satan. How do we overcome his schemes?
- What does verse 3 teach us about the degree of sin's power over us? Reference Romans 3:10-11.
- Discuss how *Sola Gratia* refers to God's motivation and plan to reconcile sinners to himself. What is the difference between common grace and saving grace?
- Name some examples of God's common grace to humanity. What is God's common grace toward humanity ultimately meant to lead us to? Reference Romans 2:4.
- How did Jesus Christ accomplish the work of grace that was necessary for our salvation? What is regeneration? Name some other blessings we enjoy as recipients of God's saving grace.
- What does it mean that God's grace is sufficient? Do you struggle to accept the fact that God's grace is a free gift – not earned? How is the Roman Catholic Sacrament of Penance (Contrition, Confession, Absolution, and Works of Satisfaction) at odds with biblical grace?

- Discuss the following three ways (and any others you can think of) that we can respond to God's grace to us through Jesus Christ:
 - Humility
 - Good Works
 - Missional Living