



## Pray Together

**Use the first few minutes of your time together to lead your group in a focused prayer time.**

- **Praise:** Spend time praising God for who He is.
- **Repent:** Take a few moments to silently confess any sin that is lingering in your heart.
- **Ask:** Verbalize your needs and the needs of others to God.
- **Yield:** Surrender your will to God.

## Read Together

"In Christ alone my hope is found." These words hold special meaning for the believer. Christ alone or *Solo Christus* became the banner of love that hung on the Cross over two thousand years ago when Jesus, the Messiah, gave His life in exchange for yours and mine. This mantra reminds us that salvation is not based on our righteous works along with Christ's substitutionary death, burial, and resurrection. Never. Salvation comes through *Solo Christus*, Christ alone.

Why, then, have those before us and many today continued their attempts to lessen the sacrificial work of Jesus on the Cross by adding to it? This scene was played out in Galatians 2, wherein some early church leaders argued the point of the Law and grace, saying that both were necessary for the sake of religious culture and salvation. Salvation cannot be found by combining the Law and grace. The truth of *Solo Christus* can only be experienced at the Cross where Jesus alone atoned for our sins, justifying us through His blood. At the Cross, we experience three life-giving truths for justification by grace through faith in Christ alone: covenant sacrifice for sins on the Cross, complete separation from the Law by the Cross, and confident sufficiency for salvation and sanctification at the Cross. Together we will explore these aspects of *Solo Christus*.

## Discuss Together

**Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion.**

- Our focal passage for today will be Galatians 2:19-20. For context read Galatians 2:15-21. Let's begin by exploring *Christ's covenant sacrifice for our sins on the Cross* at the crucifixion.

Using your knowledge of the Old Testament (particularly your knowledge of the Tabernacle in Exodus 25-27), discuss the Old Testament sacrificial system.

- To whom and to what did the Tabernacle and the Old Testament sacrifices always point?
- Read Hebrews 10:1-18. Discuss the differences found in the Old Testament sacrifices and the one-time atonement of Jesus on the Cross.
- John Brown in his commentary, *An Exposition of the Epistle of Paul to the Galatians* says, "The life I have now is not the life of a man under the law, but the life of a man delivered from the law; having died and risen again with Christ Jesus, Christ's righteousness justifies me, Christ's Spirit animates me." Explain how Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross provided complete separation from the Law. (See Galatians 2:19-20 and Hebrews 10:10-18).
- According to Hebrews 10:16, where is the Law written for believers today? How can a person be dead to the Law yet live a life that is pleasing to God, following His commandments? (See 2 Corinthians 3:12-18 & Romans 6:11-23)



- Are there any areas in your life where you need to die to the Law? How can the Holy Spirit help you in these areas? (See 2 Corinthians 3:18, John 14:16-17, 23 & 26)
- Confident sufficiency for our salvation and for sanctification is found at the Cross through Christ alone. What does Paul say with regard to knowing and experiencing the power of the Cross in Philippians 3:10?
- The Cross-centered life is all about surrender. Reread Galatians 2:20 below.

“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

Just as Christ *gave Himself* for you and for me, we, too, must give ourselves to Him in order to be transformed into His likeness. We must surrender and allow *Solo Christus*, Christ alone, to do the work in us. How does the Cross demonstrate surrender? How does the Cross empower the believer to surrender for daily transformation? (See also Romans 12:1-2)

- What do you need to bring to the Cross and surrender today so that *Solo Christus*, Christ alone, can work His power in you for His glory?

## How I must obey Christ...

- Examine yourself. As a result of this study, identify a specific area in which you need to obey Christ this week.
- How do you specifically need to obey Christ in this area this week?
- How can Jesus redeem this area? How has He proven that in Scripture?
- Who will keep you accountable to this commitment this week?

## Pray Together

Make Philippians 3:10 your prayer this week.

