

Small Group Guide: In Christ Alone (Solus Christus)



Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by thanking God for being the one mediator between God and humanity, and ask the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and deepen your understanding of salvation through Christ alone.

Icebreaker

Share a time when you tried to earn something that was actually meant to be a gift. How did that experience make you feel?

Key Scripture References

- **1 Timothy 2:3-6** - One mediator between God and man
- **John 14:6** - Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life
- **John 10:1-16** - The Good Shepherd
- **Acts 10:44-48** - The Holy Spirit falls on the Gentiles

Summary of Main Points

1. **Christ is the only mediator** between God and humanity—not church rituals, clergy, or good works
 2. **Salvation comes through faith alone** in response to the gospel, not through religious practices
 3. **Jesus is both the door and the Good Shepherd** who lays down His life for His sheep
 4. **We are saved by grace, through faith, in Christ alone**—the core message of the Reformation
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

1. What does it mean that Jesus is "fully God and fully man," and why is this necessary for Him to be our mediator? (Reference the John Chrysostom quote)
2. In the story of Cornelius (Acts 10), what is the significance of the order of events—that the Holy Spirit fell on them BEFORE they were baptized?
3. How does the Good Shepherd analogy (John 10) help us understand Christ's role in our salvation?

Going Deeper

4. The pastor mentioned that the church historically added obstacles between people and God, similar to what the Pharisees did. What are some modern "obstacles" that churches or individuals might put between people and Christ today?
5. Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice" (John 10:27). What does it practically look like to recognize and follow Jesus's voice in your daily life? How do we distinguish His voice from other voices?
6. The sermon emphasized that baptism, church attendance, worship, Bible reading, and prayer don't save us—only Christ does. How does this truth change the way we approach these spiritual practices?

Personal Reflection

7. Have you ever struggled with thinking you needed to "earn" your salvation through good works or religious activities? How does the truth of "Christ alone" free you from that burden?

8. Peter and the Jewish believers were "astonished" that God would save Gentiles. Are there people or groups you've been surprised God would save? What does this reveal about God's grace?
 9. On a scale of 1-10, how much do you rely on Christ alone versus Christ plus your own efforts for your standing before God? What would help you move closer to complete trust in Christ alone?
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Key Takeaways

- Salvation is found in Christ alone—not in religious rituals, church membership, or good works
 - Jesus is the only mediator between God and humanity because He is both fully God and fully man
 - We are saved by God's grace, through faith, in Christ—baptism and other practices flow FROM salvation, not TO salvation
 - The Holy Spirit is given when we believe the gospel, confirming our salvation
 - No person, institution, or practice can serve as a mediator—only Christ
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Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

1. **Examine your heart:** Journal about areas where you might be trusting in your own efforts or religious practices rather than Christ alone. Confess these to God and recommit to trusting in His finished work.
2. **Share the simple gospel:** Practice explaining the gospel to someone in simple terms—focusing on Christ's work, not religious requirements. You might share with a believer to encourage them or with a non-believer as an evangelistic opportunity.
3. **Rest in Christ:** Identify one religious activity you've been doing out of obligation or fear rather than love. This week, do it (or don't do it) from a place of rest in Christ's finished work, not to earn God's favor.

4. **Listen for the Shepherd's voice:** Set aside time each day this week to quietly listen for God's voice through Scripture and prayer. Write down what you sense He is saying to you.
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Prayer Prompts

Praise: Thank God that salvation is complete in Christ alone and doesn't depend on our efforts.

Confession: Confess ways you've tried to add to Christ's finished work or trusted in religious activities for your standing before God.

Intercession: Pray for those who are burdened by false teaching that adds requirements to the gospel. Pray for churches to clearly preach Christ alone.

Personal: Ask God to help you rest fully in Christ's work and to recognize His voice more clearly.

Looking Ahead

Next week, we'll continue exploring the Five Solas of the Reformation. Come prepared to discuss how this week's focus on "Christ alone" has impacted your walk with God.

Closing

End your time by reading together **1 Timothy 2:5-6**: *"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all to be testified in due time."*

5-Day Devotional: In Christ Alone



Day 1: The One Mediator

Reading: 1 Timothy 2:3-6

Devotional:

There is one God and one mediator between God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus. This truth liberates us from the burden of seeking salvation through any other means. No ritual, tradition, or human mediator can bridge the gap between us and God. Jesus alone possesses both divine and human nature, uniquely qualified to reconcile us to the Father. Today, reflect on areas where you might be placing trust in religious activities rather than in Christ himself. Are you relying on church attendance, good deeds, or spiritual disciplines to earn God's favor? Remember, these are responses to salvation, not pathways to it. Rest in the finished work of Christ, the only mediator you need.

Day 2: The Good Shepherd's Voice

Reading: John 10:1-15

Devotional:

Jesus declares himself the Good Shepherd who knows his sheep by name and whose sheep recognize his voice. In a world filled with competing voices—cultural pressures, religious legalism, personal ambitions—how do we discern the Shepherd's call? His sheep follow him not out of obligation but recognition. They know his voice because they spend time with him. The Good Shepherd doesn't drive us with threats; he leads us with love, even laying down his life for us. Today, consider what voices you're following. Are you chasing after strangers who promise fulfillment but lead to destruction? Practice listening for the Shepherd's voice through Scripture and prayer, trusting that he will guide you to safe pasture.

Day 3: Grace Breaks Down Walls

Reading: Acts 10:34-48

Devotional:

Peter's encounter with Cornelius shattered religious boundaries. The Holy Spirit fell upon Gentile believers before any ritual was performed, proving that God's grace transcends human categories and traditions. What saved them was simple faith in the gospel, not adherence to religious customs. This passage challenges us to examine the walls we've built—requiring people to look like us, worship like us, or meet certain standards before we accept them into God's family. God's grace is scandalously inclusive, offered freely to all who believe. Are there people you've excluded from your understanding of God's reach? Today, ask God to reveal any prejudices or barriers you've erected that contradict the radical inclusiveness of the gospel.

Day 4: Christ Alone, Not Christ Plus

Reading: Galatians 2:15-21

Devotional:

The Reformation cry of "Christ alone" confronts our tendency toward "Christ plus"—Jesus plus our works, plus our rituals, plus our religious pedigree. Paul declares that we are justified by faith in Christ, not by observing the law. If righteousness could come through human effort, Christ died for nothing. This truth cuts through every generation's attempts to add requirements to the gospel. Examine your heart today: What are you adding to Christ? Is it baptism, church membership, moral performance, or spiritual experiences? These may be beautiful expressions of faith, but they cannot save. Salvation rests entirely on Christ's finished work. Let go of the exhausting treadmill of religious performance and rest in the sufficiency of Jesus.

Day 5: One Flock, One Shepherd

Reading: Ephesians 2:11-22

Devotional:

Jesus promised there would be one flock and one shepherd, breaking down the dividing wall between Jew and Gentile. Through his sacrifice, he created one new humanity, reconciling both groups to God in one body. This unity wasn't achieved through compromise or tolerance but through the cross, where hostility was put to death. Today, the church still struggles with division—denominational, racial, socioeconomic, and cultural. Yet we share one Lord, one faith, one baptism. How are you contributing to the unity of Christ's flock? Are you building walls or bridges? Remember, what unites us is infinitely greater than what divides us: we all come to the Father through Christ alone. Pray for unity in your church and the global body of believers.