

# ***“Sola Fide” – Through Faith Alone***

## **Hebrews 11:1-21 – October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

### **for Life Group & Personal Bible Study**

This guide, based on Sunday’s sermon, provides additional study and reflection for personal devotions and Life Group discussion. It is not meant to serve as a full Bible study curriculum, exhaustive commentary, or complete Life Group itinerary, but simply as a helpful resource for further study. Feel free to use these thoughts below as you enjoy your time in God’s Word!



#### **1) Backgrounds**

How does trust influence where you eat, who you bank with, where you take your car to be fixed, who you choose as friends? What have they done to evoke trust?

What has God done to initiate faith with us? The following Bible verses will help: John 3:16, Romans 5:8, Ephesians 2:8-9, 1 John 4:10.

The Reformation was a movement started by Martin Luther 500 years ago as he wrestled with this idea of faith. As he poured over the Scripture (especially Romans 1:17), he realized the church was teaching a person must *earn* a right standing with God (righteousness). Yet, the Bible teaches that faith alone connects us to Christ, not works, where Jesus’ righteousness covers us and His righteousness is imputed/credited to us. Our sin is not just forgiven, but we are no longer guilty; we are justified! How does that make you feel?

#### **2) Read Hebrews 11:1-21 again and think back over Sunday’s sermon.**

What points of the sermon or this passage resonated with you?

What questions came to mind? How were you challenged?

What is your reaction to the statement : ***Faith alone unites us with Christ and empowers us to thrive?*** What is faith? How do we live by faith?

#### **3) Expanding our Understanding**

Read James 2:14-26. What is it saying about faith? It will help to look at the word ‘works’ as responding to God’s prompting. Why is faith without works dead?

What do you think “faith was completed by his works” means? (James 2:22)

#### **4) Digging Deeper – exploring “faith stories” from the Hebrews “Hall of Faith” passage**

What do these accounts teach us about faith?

- Abel’s offering (Genesis 4:1-16)
- Noah’s construction (Genesis 6:9-22)
- Abraham’s obedience (Genesis 12:1-7)
- Sarah’s trust in God (Genesis 18:1-15)
- Isaac’s step of blessing (Genesis 27:1-46)
- Jacob’s step of worship (Genesis 48:1-22)

#### **5) Personal Reflection**

Faith is responding to God’s love. Read 2 Corinthians 5:7 and Proverbs 3:5-6. How do these passages help us know how to live/walk *by faith*?

How might you live by faith, responding to God? What often holds you back from trusting God?

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**Answers to Sunday’s “fill in the blanks”**  
**& other Bible verses**



*Faith alone unites us with Christ and empowers us to thrive.*

*Faith alone connects us to Christ, not works, where Jesus’ righteousness covers us and His righteousness is imputed, credited to us, where our sin is not just forgiven, but we are no longer guilty, we are justified!*

Introductory Notes:

**Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 4:5, John 15:4, Hebrews 11:17**

**Romans 1:17** – “For in it (the gospel) the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, ‘The righteous shall live by faith.’”

**Faith Steps Towards Understanding vs3**

**Faith Steps Towards Sacrificing vs4**

Luke 21:1-4

**Hebrews 11:6** And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.

James 2:14-26

**Faith Steps Towards Constructing vs7**

**Faith Steps Towards Obeying vs8**

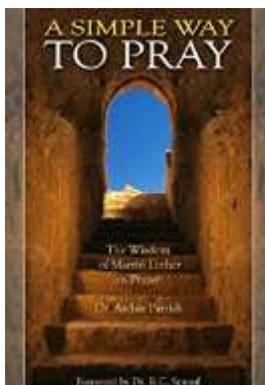
Matthew 22:37-39

**Faith Steps Towards Hoping vs11**

Matthew 17:20

**Faith Steps Towards Blessing vs20**

**Faith Steps Towards Worshiping vs21**



**Going Deeper:** Want to go deeper? Check out this small but powerful book about Martin Luther’s personal insights on prayer! Complement our sermon series with A Simple Way to Pray by Dr. Archie Parrish, reading each of the 5 chapters alongside the 5 weeks of our ‘Sola’ sermon series. Each Life Group leader has more information. Read chapter 2 this week. Next week, we’ll check out chapter 3.

**“Love Thy Neighbor” idea of the week (Luke 10:25-36):**

Take a treat to a house-bound neighbor!