



Small Group Study Guide for October 28, 2018

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: The Good News of Jesus Christ is the open door to eternal life. When Martin Luther discovered the Gospel, he said it was like the gates of paradise opening before him. When we hear and believe the Gospel, we are welcomed into God's grace, mercy, peace, and joy – the heavenly feast. If we try to get in any other door, we find them all locked. Only Jesus shows us the way.

Getting Started:

1. Share an experience where you were locked out of your house or car. What did you have to do?
2. Do you know why Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the castle church door in Wittenberg on October 31, 1517?

In the Word: Romans 3:19-20

3. What "law" is Paul referring to here in this passage?
4. How many people will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law? (vs. 20)
5. Give some examples of "works of the law" which God wants us to do, that may be all well and good, but simply do not make us righteous in God's sight.
6. How does reading and understanding God's law make us more conscious of our sin?

Read Romans 3:21-28

7. How has the "righteousness of God" been made known apart from the law?

8. Verse 22 was a key passage for Martin Luther in understanding how God considers us righteous – that is, how we are saved and enter heaven. What does this verse tell us about “the righteousness of God”?

9. Verses 23 and 24 are classic expressions of law & gospel. What is the “bad news” and what is the “good news” in these passages?

10. Verse 28 is a definitive statement on how we are justified (made right with) before God. What does this verse mean to you and your relationship with God?

Putting it all Together

11. Lutheran Christians try to always emphasize that we are saved by grace through faith in Christ, and not by works or the things we do. Our good works are a response to grace – the fruit of faith. Think of Lutheran worship services. What parts of the service emphasize God’s grace and forgiveness to us?

12. People sometimes think of God as a stern judge who is so ready to condemn them. Others think of God as a soft old man who wouldn’t hurt a fly. Why are both of these inaccurate portrayals of God?

13. What could we as a congregation – and you as a Small Group – do so that more people could experience the open door of the Gospel?

Prayer: Praise God for His amazing grace. Confess that we are unworthy to receive anything good from the Lord, and yet rejoice that we have every blessing in Christ. Ask God to help us to stay focused on the Gospel, so that more and more people can hear the good news of Jesus and walk through the open door to eternal life.

Next Week: All Saints Sunday is when we remember those who have gone before us and died in the faith. We are also celebrating 10 years since our relocation to Delta Township. Our ministry is built on the work of the saints who paved the way, and we are standing in a long line of witnesses who have learned, lived, and shared Christ so that we can be about those things today. Thanks be to God!