

Study Guide

In your own words, define "faith."

Read Hebrews 11:1-3

How does your definition of faith line up with the Bible?

Why do you think the founding members of Faith Free Lutheran Church chose to name the church "faith"?

How would you describe the interrelatedness of faith, hope, and love?

Belief and faith are very closely related. What distinction was made between the two? Is this helpful? What questions do you have?

The 5 Solas are Latin statements that guide our thinking and living in relationship to God ... Sola Scriptura (Scripture alone), Sola Christus (Christ alone), Sola gratia (grace alone), Sola fide (faith alone), Soli deo gloria (glory to God alone).

Have you heard of these statements?

When you consider that each statement is "alone" what does that do for reconciling your understanding of how a life of faith works? Do you sit with tension easily? Or are paradoxes like this difficult for you?

What is meant by the statement "faith alone"?

Read Romans 10:5-17; why do you think Paul built up the case he did in verses 5-16 before stating "...faith comes from hearing and hearing from the word of Christ"?

When did you hear the word of Christ and receive faith?

Read Matthew 17:14-21; what does this account tell you about faith? Does this make it easier or harder to understand faith? Why?

Read Matthew 18:1-6; why do you think Jesus explained the kingdom of heaven the way he did? Is this helpful for you in understanding faith? Why or why not?

What questions do these two texts raise for you?

Can you tell of a time when you saw the fruit of a small, mustard seed like faith becoming something completely other than you expected?

How have you experienced childlike faith?

If the amount or size of your faith is not the most important, how would you explain what it means to "grow in your faith"?

How do you grow in your faith?

Considering all that you've looked at in this study, why do you think faith comes from hearing the word of Christ?

Next Steps:

Is the heart of God good?

And is the heart of God good for me?

Have you seen Him?

And are you His?

Next week's Scripture: Hebrews 6:13-20