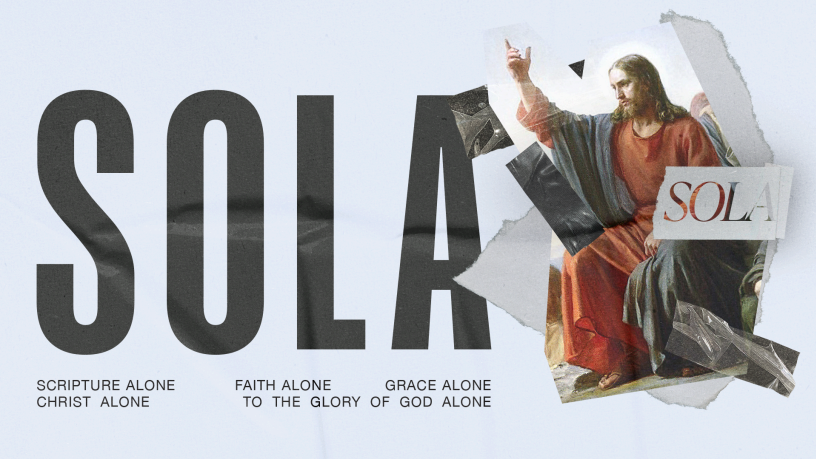


5 Daily Devotionals (From October 25th Sermon)

Day 1: When You Get Off Course

Key Verse: “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” — John 14:6 (ESV)

Reflection

Have you ever tried to follow directions only to discover that you were heading the wrong way? Even a small mistake with a compass can eventually take you miles off course. The same thing can happen in our spiritual lives. Small departures from God's Word may not seem like a big deal at first, but over time, they can lead us away from the truth.

During the Reformation, Martin Luther recognized that the church needed to return to its biblical foundation. His desire was to bring its teaching back in line with Scripture.

Our culture often tells us that truth is personal, that everyone can follow their own path to God. But Jesus makes a clear claim: He is the way, the truth, and the life. We don't find salvation by following our own feelings or creating our own spiritual path. We find it in Jesus Christ, who died and rose again for us.

God's Word continually points us back to Him when we wander.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, keep me from wandering away from Your truth. Help me trust Jesus as the only way to You, and guide my thoughts, words, and actions according to Your Word. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 2: You Can't Earn a Gift

Key Verse: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.” — Ephesians 2:8 (ESV)

Reflection

We live in a world where most things have to be earned. We work for our paychecks, study for our grades, and put in effort to accomplish our goals. It's easy to assume that our relationship with God works the same way: if we try hard enough, behave well enough, or do enough good things, perhaps we'll earn His forgiveness and a place in heaven.

But that's not how grace works.

The sermon described grace as God's riches at Christ's expense. Mercy means we don't receive the punishment we deserve; grace means God gives us gifts we haven't earned. Through Jesus' death on the cross, God forgives our sins and gives us the promise of eternal life.

Romans 3 reminds us that all have sinned and fallen short of God's glory. None of us can stand before Him claiming we've done enough. Yet God justifies us freely through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Forgiveness isn't a paycheck for good behavior. It's a gift purchased by Jesus and given to us freely. We don't obey God to earn His love; we respond to His love with gratitude.

Prayer: Gracious Father, thank You for giving me what I could never earn. Forgive me when I try to prove my worth through my own efforts. Help me rest in the forgiveness and salvation Jesus has won for me. Amen.

Day 3: Faith When You Still Have Questions

Key Verse: “I believe; help my unbelief!” — Mark 9:24 (ESV)

Reflection

Have you ever trusted God while still wondering what He was doing? Maybe you've prayed for healing, struggled through a difficult season, or faced a situation that made you question whether things would ever get better.

Faith doesn't mean we never have questions. In Mark 9, a father brought his suffering son to Jesus and honestly confessed both his belief and his unbelief. He needed Jesus not only to help his son but also to help him trust.

That prayer is wonderfully honest. We can love God and still struggle. We can believe His promises and still feel afraid. Faith isn't about having every question answered or understanding everything God allows. Faith means trusting the One who has shown Himself trustworthy.

We have reason to trust Jesus. He gave His life for us on the cross and rose again to conquer sin and death. Even when we cannot see what lies ahead, we can cling to what He has already done for us.

You don't have to hide your doubts from God. Bring them to Him in prayer, return to His promises in Scripture, and ask Him to strengthen your faith.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I believe; help my unbelief. When fear and questions overwhelm me, remind me of Your love, Your cross, and Your resurrection. Teach me to trust You even when I cannot see the way forward. Amen.

Day 4: Build Your Life on the Rock

Key Verse: “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.” — 2 Timothy 3:16 (ESV)

Reflection

What is the foundation of your life? Our culture offers plenty of possibilities: personal opinions, popular ideas, financial security, relationships, or whatever feels right at the moment. But these things can change. What seems certain today may look very different tomorrow.

God gives us something more dependable: His Word.

The Bible doesn't simply offer inspirational sayings or advice for a better life. It reveals our sin and our need for a Savior, then points us to Jesus Christ, who has provided the forgiveness we cannot earn. Through Scripture, God teaches us what is true, corrects us when we wander, and directs us toward His promises.

Jesus described the person who hears His words and puts them into practice as someone building a house on rock. When storms come, that foundation matters. Suffering, illness, broken relationships, and uncertainty can shake us, but God's promises remain firm.

Building on the Rock doesn't mean life will be easy. It means our hope rests on Jesus rather than on circumstances that can change.

Application: Spend ten minutes today reading God's Word. Ask yourself: What does this passage teach me about my sin, my Savior, or God's promises? Let His truth shape your decisions and strengthen your faith.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, establish my life on Your unchanging Word. When the storms come, keep my eyes fixed on Jesus, my crucified and risen Savior. Amen.

Day 5: The One Who Has Been There and Back

Key Verse: “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.” — John 11:25 (ESV)

Reflection

When we face life's biggest questions, we often turn to other people for answers. We read books, watch videos, and listen to experts. But when it comes to death and what lies beyond it, human wisdom has limits.

As the sermon reminded us, Jesus is different. He didn't merely offer theories about the afterlife. He died on the cross and rose from the grave. The risen Christ is our sure hope because He has conquered the very enemy we cannot defeat ourselves.

This is why the Reformation's emphasis on Scripture matters so much. God's Word directs us away from shifting human opinions and toward the promises of Jesus. The Bible shows us both the seriousness of our sin and the greatness of our Savior.

Our confidence doesn't rest on how strong our faith feels today, how well we've lived, or how much we understand. It rests on Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us and rose again. Through faith in Him, we have forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.

The world changes, our circumstances change, and our feelings change. But Christ's victory stands firm.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for conquering sin and death through Your cross and resurrection. When I fear the future or wonder what comes next, anchor me in Your promises. Help me live each day in the comfort of Your grace and the hope of eternal life. Amen.

Small Group Discussion

Opening Icebreaker

Have you ever followed directions that were slightly off and ended up in the wrong place? What helped you get back on course?

Key Scripture

Ephesians 2:8–9 (ESV) — “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

The Big Idea

Just as a compass keeps us on course, God’s Word keeps the Church grounded in His truth. The Reformation called Christians back to the teachings of Scripture and the good news of Jesus Christ. Our salvation rests not on our goodness or accomplishments, but on God’s grace, received through faith in Jesus, as revealed in Scripture.

1. Grace Alone — Salvation Is God’s Gift

We have all sinned and fallen short of God’s glory (Romans 3:23). We cannot earn forgiveness or eternal life through good works. In His mercy, God forgives our sins, and in His grace, He gives us the gift of salvation through Jesus’ death and resurrection.

Supporting verses: Romans 3:23–24; Ephesians 2:8–10.

2. Faith Alone — Trust in Jesus

Faith is trusting God’s promises even when we struggle with questions or uncertainty. Our confidence is not in the strength of our faith, but in Jesus, who died and rose again for us. Even when we pray, “I believe; help my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24), we can turn to Him for help.

Supporting verses: Proverbs 3:5–6; Hebrews 11:1; Mark 9:24.

3. Scripture Alone — God’s Word Is Our Foundation

Human opinions, cultural values, and personal feelings change. God’s Word reveals our sin and points us to our Savior. Jesus describes the person who hears His words and acts on them as someone building a house on rock. When life’s storms come, His promises remain our foundation.

Supporting verses: 2 Timothy 3:16–17; Matthew 7:24–27; John 14:6.

Discussion Questions

1. Which of these three truths—grace alone, faith alone, or Scripture alone—is most meaningful to you right now? Why?
2. Why is it difficult for us to accept that salvation is a free gift rather than something we earn?
3. What do you do when you struggle with doubt or find it difficult to trust God? How can Mark 9:24 encourage you?
4. What competing voices or influences can pull us away from God's Word? How can we stay grounded in Scripture?
5. When life gets difficult, where do you tend to turn first for comfort or direction? What would it look like to turn to God's promises?

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for saving us by Your grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Forgive us when we rely on ourselves, trust in the things of this world, or wander from Your Word. Strengthen our faith when we doubt, remind us that salvation is Your gift, and help us build our lives on the unchanging truth of Scripture. Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, our crucified and risen Savior, and guide us by Your Word each day. In Jesus' name, Amen.