



From Catacombs to Cafes Back to the Bible - The Reformers

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

SUNDAY 20 September 2026

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BACK TO THE BIBLE - The REFORMERS

Reformation and Revival

20 September 2026

GETTING STARTED

The reformation period of the 1700s followed the increasing power and abuse of the Church of Rome over Western Christianity.

Previous attempts to bring church leadership back to the Gospel message and care for the people had failed, but now improved education, the invention of the printing press and the increasing dissatisfaction with the power of the Pope, meant the stage was set for major reform.

Like the Pharisees and Sadducees of Jesus' time, the Church of Rome had become a political hierarchy.

Salvation and forgiveness for sins required payment to the church and the Bible was being restricted. At the time of the reformation even most of the clergy had limited access to the Word of God.

Following the reformation the church experienced a period of further splinter groups but the foundation of core Gospel truths and access to God's word set the scene for revival across the world.

INTO THE WORD

Read these verses in light of where the church was prior to the reformation.

How are these verses just as relevant for us today?

Galations 1:6-9

Ephesians 2:8-10

1 Timothy 4:1-11

Key Verse:

“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. “Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”

Ephesians 4:11-16 NIV

GOING DEEPER

When we view the history of the church over the past 2000 years we see history repeating.

- What do we need to learn from the past in order to attain to the knowledge of God, who we are in him and really follow his teaching as we seek to love those around us?
- How can we really know the authentic message so that we can easily discern and avoid false teaching?

In this information overload world we live in, discerning God's truth and following the teachings of Jesus is vital for our growth in him and our witness to the world.

Reflection:

- What are some of the messages we hear today that might seem Christian, that might use Christian language, but do not align to the teaching of Jesus?

Read Matthew 25 and hold up these messages to the light of that scripture.

Living it out:

Can we commit to really studying God's word so we will be equipped to discern the truth. Remember to read scripture in context, asking the following questions:

Who is the author and what was the original purpose for what is written?

What is the whole Bible saying about the subject?

What preconceived ideas or cultural influences do I bring to my understanding of the scripture?

What can I take from the scripture to help me follow Jesus?

"Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

John 14:6 NIV

"For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith.""

Romans 1:17 NIV