

## GRACE IN ACTION

### Discussion Guide: Theology 1

#### *Scripture, Confession, and the Foundations of Faith*

What are your earliest memories of reading the Bible or someone reading the Bible to you? Did you find comfort in the words and stories? Or did you have another feeling?

How did your perception of scripture change from childhood to adulthood? What surprised you when you learned about scripture with more depth?

The panel talks about scripture being the living Word of a living God. How do we know we have a living God? How does the Bible, even though written centuries ago, come alive to us today?

In many times in the Gospels, Jesus references Old Testament scripture and directly quotes it. How do you think the Old Testament shaped Jesus' life? Do you think Jesus' use of the Old Testament shaped his ministry to the people of that time?

The Holy Trinity, three in one, one in three, is extremely difficult to explain and even more challenging to understand. Do you have to completely understand a concept in order to believe it? What other concepts seem out of our grasp, yet we hold them as central to our faith?

There are several paradoxes that we hold in the Lutheran church. Luther taught that every person is both a saint and a sinner at the same time. How can that be true? Where do you experience that in your life? Where do you see it evident in our larger society?

As a denomination born out of the Reformation, we are called to always be made new, continuously growing in our faith, community, and relationship with God. How are congregations reluctant to reform, to change? Likewise, where do you see congregations embracing new life and continuous reform?

How does God continue to guide the church through growth and change?