

Examining the *Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification*

Answer the following questions as a group.

1. Based on this excerpt, describe *justifying faith* (that is, the faith by which we are justified) in your own words. What does it include? What does it not include?
2. What is the Lutheran understanding of the faith that justifies us, according to this excerpt? Where does this faith come from?
3. What is the Catholic understanding of justification, as explained in this excerpt? Where does justifying faith or grace come from?
4. What common ground do you see between the Lutheran and Catholic understandings of *justifying faith*, based on this excerpt? Identify three points of agreement.

