

MARTIN LUTHER AND THE REFORMATION

Bible Text: Matthew 16:13-20; Luke 4:18-19; Romans 3:21-26; Ephesians 2:8-9

Lesson Focus: Christians continually reform the church to spread the good news to every generation and culture.

Big Question: Who is Martin Luther and what does it mean to be a Lutheran?

Key Words: MARTIN LUTHER, REFORMATION, CATHOLIC, THESIS, RECANT

BIBLE CONNECTION

-] God loves and forgives us because of Jesus Christ, NOT because of anything we do (Ephesians 2:8-9).
-] We are simultaneously saint and sinner (*simul iustus et peccator*). Our sinful self needs daily drowning, in the context of God's love and forgiveness given through our baptism. Maturity toward Christlikeness is an ongoing process (Ephesians 4:11-16).
-] The three *solas*—*sola scriptura* (scripture alone), *sola fidei* (faith alone), *sola gratia* (grace alone)—are central to Luther's teaching and the Reformation (Romans 3:21-16).
-] Martin Luther made the Bible and worship accessible to every Christian by translating them into the language the people spoke and encouraging public education so that they could read.
-] All people have the duty to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, not just pastors. This is called the "priesthood of all believers." All vocations, or callings, are honored by God (Luke 4:18-19).
-] The imperfect church continues to be imperfect. The Christian church is continually changing—evaluating what has been done in the past and learning to adapt to new times and cultures (Matthew 16:13-20).

CARTOON CONNECTION

-] Luther was ridiculed for his ideas by people with whom he had studied. How does it feel to be teased or taunted by people you thought were friends?
-] Is it easier to "give in" and change your views (or at least pretend to go with the crowd) or to keep fighting for what you believe?
-] Is it more important to stand up for what you believe is right or to go along so that people like you?



STUDENT BOOK CONNECTION

Here We Stand Student Book page 165: Five Things You Should Know about the Lutheran Reformation

-] Which of these is the most important? Why do you think that is the case?
-] Many of the 16th-century reformers were not interested in creating new denominations, even though that was the result of the Protestant Reformation. Would it be better if we went back to having just one "true" church?

Here We Stand Student Book page 231: How to Reform the Church When It Strays from the Gospel

-] What things do you think need to be reformed in the church today?
-] Are these changes that could really be made in the church or your congregation?
-] If so, how could you bring these ideas up for discussion in your congregation?
-] How difficult would it be to speak out publicly if you feel the church needs to change?

LIFE CONNECTION

Luther taught that all people have a calling or "vocation" that God calls them to do and that all vocations are equally important—parent, teacher, lawyer, pastor, plumber, garbage collector, etc. Between this class and the next, talk to one Christian whose job seems "ordinary." Invite them to share how God uses them in their job. How can you serve God as you do your "ordinary" tasks this week?

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Word Search

Find each word or phrase in the word grid below.

C J M J L U T H E R X D Y M U E M G
F V H L G J K H P L D O C T A A G T
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MEDIEVAL

MARTIN LUTHER

REFORMATION

GERMANY

CATHOLIC

THESES

DIET OF WORMS

RECANT

WITTENBERG

MONK