

Date:

Student Name:

Week 16 - The Reformation - Martin Luther and the German States

General Information for All Grades

Our central focus for the next three weeks is the Protestant Reformation. This week, we will look at the life of Martin Luther, the issues that he raised, and the course of the German Protestant reformation. Next week, we will study what happened as Protestantism spread to Switzerland, Scandinavia, and England. The following week, we will study what happened as Protestantism spread to France and Spain, and read about the response of the Roman Catholic Church, called the Counter-Reformation or the Catholic Reformation.

You may have noticed that the word "Protestant" has the word "protest" in it. The Protestant Reformation began with the protest by Martin Luther against certain doctrines and practices of the Roman Catholic Church that we read about last week. Martin Luther was a monk and a teacher within the Roman Catholic Church who initially had no reason to want to break with it. While other men that we have studied (like Wycliffe, Hus, and Savonarola) also protested against wrong practices in the Roman Catholic Church, God sovereignty used Martin Luther to bring lasting reform. His protests were not silenced, and his boldness in speaking and writing, despite his weakness, was mightily used to bring both a renewal of the church and a breach that has never been healed.

The word "Reformation" has the word "reform" in it. Luther believed that faith and faith alone in Jesus' atoning death would save people from damnation. Once reconciled to God by faith in Jesus, Christians could approach Him freely, with confidence for themselves. Therefore, he denied that Roman Catholic clergy were a necessary means of grace and that they should be afforded special privileges. He taught that all believers equally constituted the Kingdom of God on earth, or the true church. In his view, no one was more worthy of forgiveness and acceptance because of certain pious acts performed; he knew that all are sinners and all sinners need Jesus' sacrifice to pay for their sins. No amount of holy living, penance, tithing, abstinence from the world, or any other earthly work would qualify a man or woman for acceptance by God. Luther also taught that the Word of God is the sole guide to which men should submit as the absolute authority on earth - not popes or princes. He viewed these doctrines as reforming, or returning, the universal church to her former true and right status on earth and before God.

Naturally, the powerful churchmen of Luther's day did not take such a challenge lying down. They sought to silence Luther just as they had Hus or Savonarola. Although they were responsible before God to preserve and teach His truth for His church, Roman Catholic leaders had no desire to repent and submit themselves to the authority of Scripture, and they sought to kill Martin Luther. In the end, much against his wish, Luther's teachings caused a schism in Christianity that remains to this day. He spent the last twenty years of his life establishing a new church which today we call the Lutheran Church.

Though Pope Leo X excommunicated Luther and demanded that secular German leaders give him up to die as a heretic, none of those leaders could stomp out his life or his teachings, because God protected him. God used the political disunity of the Holy Roman Empire to help Luther evade capture, and God allowed the power of the printing press to help spread Luther's well-reasoned arguments and ideas throughout the German states and Europe, firmly establishing the Protestant Reformation there.

Many people in Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, France, and England became Protestants during Martin Luther's lifetime. Like the Crusaders, however, some of these people became Protestants because they resented the pope, or because they desired to gain political or social freedom. Luther never wanted his religious teachings to be used for political purposes, but he was powerless to stop people from doing wrong things. So for a mixture of political reasons and religious ones, Europe erupted in a series of wars, which we will study in detail in future weeks.

Psalm 8:1-2

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

Romans 1: 21-23

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

READING

ALL - ENRICHMENT or READ ALOUD

- Famous Men of the Renaissance & Reformation by Rob Shearer 94-98, 101-104**
- Trial and Triumph, by Richard Hannula chapter 19**
- Amazing Leonardo da Vinci Inventions You can Build Yourself by Maxine Anderson p 77-84**

LG

- Martin Luther: What Should I Do? Catherine Mackenzie**
- Martin Shows the Way by Cor Van Rijswijk**

UG

- The Queen's Smuggler, by Dave and Neta Jackson(Week 1 of 2)**
 - The Gift of Music by Jane Stuart Smith and Betty Carlson Chapter 44**
- #### **DIALECTIC & RHET Reading**
- For Those Who Dare by John Hudson Tiner, p 28-30**
 - The Man Who Laid the Egg, by Louise A. Vernon**
 - Invitation to the Classics by Louise Cowan and Os Guinness 121-124**
 - Watch Martin Luther movies**

• Lower Grammar Words

doctrine

prosperous

righteousness

purgatory

indulgence

theses

reform

translate

liturgy

catechism

reconcile

cardinal

Reformation

Catholic

Protestant

heretic

abdication

dirge

repentance

Lower Grammar People

Katherina von Bora

Philipp Nicolai

Johann Michael Altenburg

Upper Grammar People (All LG people +)

Frederick the Wise

Handwriting practice lines for the name Frederick the Wise. The page features two sets of primary handwriting lines (top and bottom), each consisting of a solid top line, a dashed midline, and a solid bottom line. The first set is positioned directly below the name, and the second set is positioned further down the page.

Philipp Melancthon

Handwriting practice lines for the name Philipp Melancthon. The page features two sets of primary handwriting lines (top and bottom), each consisting of a solid top line, a dashed midline, and a solid bottom line. The first set is positioned directly below the name, and the second set is positioned further down the page.

Pope Leo X

Rhetoric and Dialectic Questions

Accountability Questions:

1. Be able to tell your teacher about each of the following terms or events, in regards to the life of Martin Luther:

- Indulgence
- Diet of Worms
- Recant
- Ban of the Empire
- Augsburg Confession
- Peace of Augsburg

2. List ways that God prepared Europeans for the Protestant Reformation.

Thinking Questions:

1. What is the connection between the political conditions in the Holy Roman Empire and the spread of Martin Luther's teachings on the Christian faith?
2. What is the connection between the invention of the printing press and the spread of Martin Luther's teachings?
3. What is the connection between the Renaissance movement and the spread of Martin Luther's teachings?