

The Reformation—Martin Luther

ACTIVITY	MINUTES	GRADE LEVEL	FOCUS	PITstops	*OTHER SUPPLIES
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPENING ACTIVITY Plume Pen	5	1–6			feathers, hot glue gun
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LESSON The Reformation —Martin Luther	10	1–6		A-H	plume pens (opening activity)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MEMORY VERSE	6	1–6			
REINFORCEMENT ACTIVITY (Choose One Option)					
<input type="checkbox"/> OPTION 1 The Reformation Review	8	1–6		I	bag/basket
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPTION 2 What I Believe	4	1–6		J	
<input type="checkbox"/> WORSHIP PROGRAM The Price Is Right!	7	1–6		K	items of various values
<input type="checkbox"/> LET'S DO IT! (LDI)					
Martin Luther	5	1–2			
Looking For Luther	5	3–4			
Reformation	5	5–6			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DIALOGUE FOLDER					
iSPEAK	5	1–2			
iSPEAK	5	3–4			
iSPEAK	5	5–6			

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOME
 This lesson will assist junior soldiers in understanding how the Protestant churches were formed. They'll learn about the life and beliefs of Martin Luther, and how his 95 Theses led to the 16th century movement called the Reformation.

YOU ARE HERE!
 Place the timeline marker on **1483** on the **New Testament** timeline.



*In addition to materials listed in this chart, you need Basic Classroom Supplies.

The Reformation—Martin Luther

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR THE LEADER

UNIT AIM:

This unit will introduce junior soldiers to men and women who have made significant contributions to the Christian faith over the last five centuries. They'll learn about key movements in the Church that have helped shape our beliefs as Salvationists.

IN ORDER FOR junior soldiers to understand what we believe as Salvationists today, it's important for them to understand the history behind the Christian Church. Beyond what they learn about the Church in Acts and in Paul's letters to the early Christians, junior soldiers need to understand the rich heritage that led the Church to become what it is today. This unit will introduce junior soldiers to key people—chosen by God—who have helped direct the Church in various ways.

Martin Luther was born on November 10, 1483, in Eisleben, Germany. At the age of 17, he enrolled in the University of Erfut, and received both a bachelor's and master's degree. Upon graduation, Martin Luther was supposed to study law, but in 1505, he sold his books and joined a monastery. Luther committed to being a monk by the fall of 1506, and was ordained in 1507.

After being ordained, Luther was asked to study theology. He was appointed to the University of Wittenberg, a German university staffed by monks, to give lectures on moral philosophy. In 1512, Luther was appointed as the chair of biblical theology at the University of Wittenberg. He held that position until his death in 1546.

While preparing for his lectures on the New Testament, Luther believed the Scripture clearly taught that Christians are saved by God's grace, not by human efforts. He believed Christians are saved by faith, not works. This belief caused Luther to turn against some of the major beliefs of the Catholic Church.

Martin Luther is most famous for posting his 95 Theses opposing the practice of the Catholic Church to sell indulgences (relief of sin) to raise funds for the construction of St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome. It's believed that Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg.

Luther was investigated by the Roman Curia because of his actions, and in January 1521, he was excommunicated. He was summoned to appear before Emperor Charles V in April 1521. He refused to recant his position stating that he'd have to be persuaded by Scripture and reason. He was taken away by Prince Frederick the Wise of Saxony and kept in hiding. While in hiding, Luther began his translation of the New Testament from original Greek into German.

Martin Luther was an avid writer. Many of his works helped readers understand the beliefs of the Church. In 1529 he wrote *Small Catechism*, a short commentary on the Ten Commandments, the Apostle's Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Lord's Supper, and baptism. Luther's translation of the Bible was published in 1534.



Luther believed that God interacts with humans through the law and through the gospel. Luther believed that the law makes humans aware of their sinfulness and need for forgiveness through Jesus Christ. Luther also believed that the Church went wrong when it confused God's law with the gospel. He believed that God's gift of grace through Jesus Christ required nothing but acceptance... no works could earn God's grace. Martin Luther broke the traditional distinction between secular occupations and religious occupations with his belief that all humans serve each other and the world through their various occupations.

Martin Luther's beliefs were the catalyst for the 16th century movement to reform the Roman Catholic Church, which led to the establishment of the Protestant churches. This movement was called the Reformation.

OPENING ACTIVITY

Plume Pen

Before class, purchase one feather and one pencil for each junior soldier. Feathers should be approximately 6"–8" in length. Feathers are available for purchase at craft supply stores or from craft retailers such as Oriental Trading Company®. Make a plume pen for each junior soldier by using a hot glue gun to attach the feather to a sharpened pencil. Make a few extra for unexpected guests.

Say: **What do you use to write with when you're at school?** (Allow response.)
Some people write with pens, pencils, crayons, markers, and even computer keyboards. We have many different ways of putting words on a page.

Today we're going to talk about a man who lived about 500 years ago. During Martin Luther's lifetime, people used a special kind of pen to write. It's called a plume pen. When someone wanted to write, they dipped the tip of a feather into ink, and wrote. Pencils weren't invented until 1750, and pens like we use today—ballpoint pens—weren't invented until 1888.

Do you think it was easy to write with a feather? (Allow response.)
Why would it be difficult? (Allow response—ink would run out, takes a long time, etc.)

Say: **I've made a modern plume pen for each of you to use during the lesson today.**



MATERIALS NEEDED:

- feathers
- pencils
- hot glue gun





MATERIALS NEEDED:

-  A-H
- “plume pens”

LESSON

The Reformation —Martin Luther



Before class, make one copy of  A for each junior soldier.

Say: **Today we’re going to talk about a man who helped make the Christian Church what it is today. His name is Martin Luther. Do you know anything about Martin Luther?** (Allow response.) **The reason there’s so much information about Martin Luther’s life and beliefs is his students’ writing. While sitting in Martin Luther’s classroom, his students wrote down the important things he said. Today, historians use that information to understand facts about Martin Luther’s life.**

Today we’re going to pretend that you’re one of Martin Luther’s students at the University of Wittenberg.

Distribute a “plume pen” and one copy of  A to each junior soldier.

Say: **During the lesson, use your plume pen to write important information about Martin Luther’s life and his beliefs on your scroll.**

As you teach the lesson, pause after the words/sentences that are underlined. This will allow junior soldiers time to write down important information on their scrolls.

Say: **Martin Luther was born on November 10, 1483. The next day was St. Martin’s Day, so his parent’s took him to church to be baptized and gave him the name Martin.**

Martin Luther was very smart. (Show junior soldiers  B.) **His parents wanted to give him a good education so that he could be successful, get married, and take care of them when they got older. They wanted him to become a lawyer. Martin went to a Latin school when he was seven years old. When he turned 14, he moved to a larger school. At this school, he learned about having a personal faith in God and understanding the Bible. He sang in the choir at this school. At the age of 15, Martin Luther moved to his third school. This school was in the town of Eisenach. It was too far for him to walk to school, so for two years he lived with the family of Frau Ursula Cotta.**

Besides going to school each day, Martin Luther attended church. On Sundays he went to church with his parents. All of the songs, Scripture readings, and sermons were in Latin. Most people couldn’t understand them, but Martin Luther could, because he learned Latin in school.



(Show junior soldiers 🏰 C.) **Martin Luther and his friends loved to watch the parades in town on special holidays. Religion was very important to Martin Luther and his family.**

Do you remember what I said Martin’s parents wanted him to become? (Allow response—a lawyer.) When Martin Luther was 17 years old, he moved to Erfurt to continue his education. There were many rules at this school. The students spent most of the day studying and praying. There was a set bedtime for all of the students. During his free time, Martin Luther played the lute while his friends sang along.

While attending school in Erfurt, Martin Luther decided that he didn’t want to become a lawyer. He sold his books, and joined a monastery. A monastery is a place where men go who want to become monks. A monk is a man who is a member of a religious group who vows to live in poverty, chastity (not get married), and obedience.

The monks and priests in Martin Luther’s order were expected to work hard and spend many hours in prayer. They also took turns going out into the street begging for money and food. In 1507, Martin Luther was ordained as a priest.

In 1509, Martin Luther was sent to Wittenberg to become a professor at the University of Wittenberg. (Show junior soldiers 🏰 D.) Martin Luther taught classes in philosophy and the Bible. While preparing for his classes, Martin Luther started to question some of the beliefs he’d been taught.

Not only was Martin Luther a teacher, he was also a preacher at the church in Wittenberg. Every Sunday many people attended church services to hear Martin Luther speak. He didn’t agree with some of the beliefs of the Catholic Church. He didn’t like the idea of selling people salvation. In the 1500s, the Catholic Church sold certificates called indulgences that made people believe that their sins were forgiven and that they wouldn’t be punished when they died. The Catholic Church used the money to construct a building for the Pope.

Martin Luther didn’t believe in indulgences. He also didn’t like the teaching of the Catholic Church because it didn’t always agree with God’s Word, the Bible. Martin Luther made a list of the 95 things he didn’t agree with, and nailed it to the door of the church in Wittenberg. (Show junior soldiers 🏰 E.)

Say: Martin Luther’s main argument was that only God—not the Pope or priests—could forgive sin. God forgives anyone who asks and is truly sorry for their sins. We don’t need to give God money to be forgiven of our sin.



By nailing his thoughts to the church door, Martin Luther started something called the Reformation. It first started in Luther's church in Wittenberg, and soon spread all over Germany and then the world.

Martin Luther believed that everyone was a priest. This is called the priesthood of believers. Luther believed that everyone was responsible to learn about God, to live a life that pleases God, and to tell others about the gospel. Church services were no longer led by priests, but by ministers selected by the people. (Show junior soldiers  F.)

Say: The services were no longer only in Latin. The Scripture reading, songs, and sermons were in German, a language the people understood. The biggest change was music. Before the Reformation, only the choir sang in church. Now, the people sang hymns and songs of praise to God.

Martin Luther translated the Bible into German so the people of Germany could read it for themselves. The German Bible was sold throughout the country. People read the Bible at home in addition to hearing it read in church on Sundays. Because people had the Bible in their homes, they needed to learn how to read. More schools were built so people could learn how to read, write, play music, and do mathematics.

Martin Luther's ideas about reform caused a lot of trouble. People wanted to stop the spread of his ideas. His friends made a plan to "kidnap" Luther when he was on his way home. They placed him in hiding until the danger died down.

In 1523, Martin Luther married Katherine von Bora. (Show junior soldiers  G.) Together they had five children, and raised 11 nieces and nephews.

The Luther family loved music, working in the garden, and reading the Bible. Martin Luther died on February 18, 1546, in Eisleben. (Show junior soldiers  H.)

Say: Many of Martin Luther's changes helped form the Christian Church of today. As members of The Salvation Army, we don't believe everything that Martin Luther believed, but we do benefit from some of his changes to the old Church. Because of Martin Luther's study of the Bible, and courage to stand up against the Catholic Church, we understand that we're able to ask God for forgiveness from our sins, and know that we're forgiven.



MEMORY VERSE

John 1:17 (NIV)  

“Moses gave us the law. Jesus Christ has given us grace and truth.”

Write the verse on the board. Read it several times.

Say: **During the 1500s, the Church told people that they could be forgiven from sin by giving money to the Church. Martin Luther disagreed with the Church. He believed what the Bible said, that people are forgiven from sin because they ask Jesus Christ for forgiveness. We believe the same thing. When we’re truly sorry for the wrong things we’ve done, and ask for forgiveness, we’re forgiven because Jesus Christ died for our sins.**

Review the verse several times.

Say: **Let’s thank God for sending Jesus to save us from our sins.**

Pray a prayer of thanksgiving for Jesus’ sacrifice.



MATERIALS NEEDED:

- board
- chalk/markers



TEACHER TIPS:

If your classroom only has one door, make two doors out of poster board and place them at two different locations in the classroom.



SIZE WISE:

If you have a small brigade, complete this activity as a group. Work together to determine which facts are true, and then “nail” (tape) them to the door.





MATERIALS NEEDED:

-  I
- tape
- bag/basket



MATERIALS NEEDED:

-  J

REINFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

(CHOOSE ONE OPTION)

The Reformation Review (Option 1)



Before class, make two copies of  I. Cut each set of cards apart and place them in a bag or basket. Divide junior soldiers into two groups. Instruct junior soldiers to take a card from the bag or basket. As a group, they must decide whether the fact on the card is true or false. If it's true, they must "nail" (tape) it to the classroom door. The first group to have all of the correct facts on the door wins.

What I Believe (Option 2)



Before class, make one copy of  J for every junior soldier. Divide junior soldiers into pairs. Be sure to mix younger and older junior soldiers together. This activity involves reading.

Say: **It's very important to understand what we believe as Christians and as soldiers of The Salvation Army. Let's look at our doctrines, our beliefs, as Christians and as members of The Salvation Army.**

Instruct pairs to take turns reading the simplified doctrines to one another.

Say: **We believe many important things. Today we talked about a man who had strong beliefs. His beliefs helped make our corps what it is today.**

Instruct junior soldiers to hang the scroll of doctrines at home where they'll be reminded of their beliefs as a Christian and soldiers of The Salvation Army.

TEACHER OPTION:

The simplified doctrines may be a useful reminder to all members of your congregation. Ask your corps officer for permission for the junior soldiers to hang copies of the simplified doctrines on the chapel doors.



SIZE WISE:



If you have a small brigade, complete this activity as one group. Allow junior soldiers to take turns reading the simplified doctrines to the entire brigade.



WORSHIP PROGRAM

CHORUS: Song #27: "Can You Imagine?"
(Track #27, *Great Big Praise* CD 1)

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 2:20-21 (NIV)

CHORUS: "Jesus Loves Me"

DEVOTIONAL

The Price is Right!

Before class, gather several items of different values. Copy and color  K; fold it in half along the dotted line. Starting with the item of the least value, describe each item to the class and allow junior soldiers to guess how much money it cost to buy the item. Continue this until you've described all of the items. Then, show junior soldiers side "A" of  K.

Say: **This next item is salvation. Salvation is forgiveness of sins. How much do you think I paid for salvation? (Allow response.) I paid NOTHING for salvation. It doesn't matter how many good things we do, or how much money we have, we can't earn or buy our salvation. There's only one way to get salvation—ask Jesus to forgive our sins and take control of our lives. Salvation is a gift from God. Jesus paid the price for our salvation. (Show side "B" of  K.) All we have to do is ask for His forgiveness.**

PRAYER

BE AWARE!

This is a wonderful moment to lead a prayer of salvation. If junior soldiers respond to the devotional, lead a time of prayer allowing junior soldiers to ask for forgiveness from sin.



Remember to fill out the *What Do You Think Evaluation* on page 320.



MATERIALS NEEDED:

-  K
- items of various values

