

Lesson 9: Martin Luther, Father of the Protestant Reformation

Key Scripture: *And if ye will not be reformed by me by these things, but will walk contrary unto me; then will I also walk contrary unto you, and will punish you yet seven times for your sins.* (Leviticus 26:23-24)

Key Principle: God continually reforms His Church and His people.

Teacher Preparation

- **Read** the Reformation Day teaching written by Max Lyons in *Surprising Stories of Providence In America's March To Liberty*
- **Study and meditate** upon the key Scripture and key principle.
- **Additional materials** needed: key word, *Reformation*; video *Martin! God Loves You*; CD of Medieval music; candle and matches; copy of the *95 Theses*; copies of outline to record notes from the movie; copies of the words to *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*; salvation tracts; copy of Halloween teaching entitled *Halloween, Have You Been Caught in the Web?*; copies of parent letter and questions; copies of script; copies of Reformation Day teaching
- **Prepare the room** by placing something over the windows so that it will be as dark as possible when the lights are turned out.

Introduction and Review

- **Welcome** and sign in
- **As students arrive**, while you are waiting for class to begin, have students who are ready recite their memory verse.
- **Prayer requests** and praise reports; prayer journal passed around; prayer

Content of Lesson-Research, Reason, Relate and Record

- **Do an object lesson** to introduce this topic. Have all the students leave the room for a moment. While they are out, remove the student Bibles, turn off the lights, begin playing a CD of medieval music, and light a candle. Have the students come back in and discuss the following:

- Where are the Bibles? Imagine a time that there were no Bibles because the Roman Catholic Church had made it illegal to read the Bible. The time was at the end of the 1400's and the people were very ignorant of many of the truths of the Bible that we now know.
 - It was a time of spiritual darkness because of this. The church was corrupt, and was the only source of what to believe about God and spiritual things. Much of its teaching was wrong, however.
 - The candle represents the small spiritual light that was still burning. Men and women called Reformers, who read the Bible for themselves, saw that the church was corrupt, and tried to reform it. At the same time these Reformers began to teach the people directly from the Bible so they would know the truth, and not walk in darkness.
 - [Turn lights back on]. In time the spiritual light grew brighter, since God's truth was known and practiced by more and more people. This event later became known as the Protestant Reformation.
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- Tell about Martin Luther nailing the **95 Theses** to the Castle Church door on October 31, 1517. Show the students a copy of this document.
 - Tell about the **significance of October 31st**. Ask what their parents have taught them that is wrong with Halloween. A key verse is Ephesians 5:11. Use scriptures and facts from the brochure entitled, *Halloween, Have You Been Caught in the Web,?* by Don and Phyl Tobias of Greater Love Ministries.
 - Watch the 30-minute movie, ***Martin! God Loves You***, produced by Morning Light Media. Pause at each section and have the students write down something that they have learned. An outline is given to them to record their notes. When the movie is over, discuss what they have learned.
 - Have a student open the **Treasure Chest** and retrieve the key word *Reformation*. Discuss the ideas of reforming and *reformation*.
 - Discuss the four key truths that are at **heart of the Reformation**:
 - **Sola Scriptura**- Scripture alone
 - **Sola Christos**- Christ alone
 - **Sola Gratia** – Grace alone

- **Sola Fide**- Faith alone
- **Hand out copies of the skit**, choose parts, and prepare them for next week's performance.
- **Sing** *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

Conclusion

- **Give the students some tracts** that they can hand out on October 31st, Halloween/Reformation Day.

Parent Involvement

- **Give parents** the Reformation Day teaching written by Max Lyons in *Surprising Stories of Providence In America's March To Liberty*, and invite them to next week's program.