

## Family Sunday School Lesson 2 - Reformation Sunday

**Introduction:** On Reformation Sunday, the Sunday before or on October 31st, we celebrate the day in 1517 that Martin Luther nailed his Ninety-five Theses on the door of the All Saints' Church in Wittenberg, in the Holy Roman Empire. We also celebrate God's power and grace to reform us as individual people and as the church.

### **Start the Fun!**

Discovering Martin Luther

*Watch a video or two about the life of Martin Luther. Here are 3 options:*

#### **Short and Funny -**

<https://pinnaclelutheran.org/fun-animated-reformation-day-video-on-martin-luther/> (short and funny)

#### **A Little Longer -**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKQWNgjdS9Q> (a little longer)

#### **The Full Length Movie -**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hAACMptKD-c>

*(there are a few difficult scenes in this movie. If you have younger children or a sensitive child, I would suggest you read this review from Plugged In <https://www.pluggedin.com/movie-reviews/luther/> to help you decide if your children should watch it.)*



## Read together

### Righteousness Through Faith

Romans 3:22-24 (NIV)

*This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*

Discuss:

Martin Luther translated the Bible from Latin to German so that more people where he lived could read and understand it. He thought it was very important for people to read the Bible themselves, not to have someone else tell them what it said. In this way, they were protected from someone lying to them about what God was saying and they could have a closer relationship with God by hearing God's words themselves.

But, you say, the Bible can be so hard to understand! It is true that a lot of the words used in the Bible are not common in our everyday vocabulary. So today we are going to learn some important Bible words so that you can be on your way to understanding God's Word for yourself.

Directions: Use the glossary to fill in the blanks above the vocabulary words with their more common, easily understandable definition.

Glossary:

faith= active trust (a belief in God's words that results in action)

Gentile = non-Jew

glory = honor, respect

grace = unearned love (the love given to us by God because God desires us to have it, not necessarily because of anything we have done to earn it)

justified = forgiven for our sins

redemption = payment (Jesus paid for our sins with his sacrifice on the Cross)

righteousness=being right in the eyes of God

Romans 3:22-24 (NIV)

*This \_\_\_\_\_ is given through \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and \_\_\_\_\_, for all have sinned and fall short of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, and all are \_\_\_\_\_ freely by his \_\_\_\_\_ through the \_\_\_\_\_ that came by Christ Jesus.*

## **Discuss:**

*Ask:* Take your time. Read the verse with the new definitions several times. Now, what do you think Romans 3:22-24 means?

*Discussion points for parents:* The ideas in this verse were very important to Martin Luther. He wanted everyone to know that God gives us the gift love and forgiveness freely, that we can't earn it and we don't have to. How incredible is this free gift? God's forgiveness and love overcomes even death. Jesus died for everyone. In God's eyes, we are precious and wholly loved.

## **Pray**

Thank God for speaking to us through the Bible. Ask God for help in understanding it and for the desire to study it. Thank God for the other gifts given to us freely (forgiveness, love, the Holy Spirit) even though we don't deserve them.

## **Participate**

### **Play the Game “*Reform yourself!*”**

To reform means to change. In this game, one participant, the “reformer,” will stand in front of the rest of the group for about 20 seconds while they carefully observe him or her. Then he or she will go into another room and change one thing about their appearance. They could untie a shoe, take out a hairband, tuck in their shirt. When they return to the room, the first person to say correctly what was changed becomes the next “reformer.”



## **Wrap Up**

God loves you. If Martin Luther wanted anything, he wanted people to know that they could have personal relationships with God by praying and reading the Bible. You can't do anything to ruin this relationship, and God will forgive any mistakes you make throughout your whole life. Praise God!

## **Take a Moment to Breathe**

### **Elevator Breath**

Begin in a comfortable seated position. Rest your hand on your thighs and gently close your eyes. Relax your shoulders. Sit into your chair to ground your tailbone and lift the crown of your head to form a long straight spine. Imagine that your spine is an elevator shaft. As you inhale, imagine the elevator rising from your tailbone to your head. As you exhale, feel the elevator travel back down the spine to your tailbone. Repeat several rounds.

On each round, visual your body growing tall as you inhale, and feel your body root into the stable ground as you exhale. As you breathe in, breathe in the love all around you. As you breathe out, let your worries float away



*From Alphabreaths by Christopher Willard*