



The Story of the Reformation (Children's Reformation Sunday Story)

Psalms 46 vs 10 He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."

Martin Luther was just a regular person—like you and me, but he saw the whole world change in his lifetime, and he had a little something to do with it. When Luther was alive, the churches didn't teach that people should trust only Jesus to be saved from Satan, sin, and death. Instead, they taught that people needed to do special works, touch special objects (like one of Peter's teeth or the wood from the cross), or even pay money in order to be saved from sin (or have their family go to heaven). This is not what the Bible teaches, but that was another problem. When Luther was alive, people did not have Bibles in their homes like we do, because the Bible was only in one language, Latin, and that was a language that most people couldn't read.

In the 16th century, Martin Luther and other men (and women) called "the Reformers" helped the church find its way back to the Bible and back to Jesus and his work on the cross. On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted a list of 95 things that needed to change on the door of his church in Wittenburg, Germany. People read what he wrote, and they began to see that the church had turned away from Jesus and the Bible. Soon (and with Martin Luther's help), the Bible was written down in languages that everyone understood—like English, German, and French. Today people can read the Bible in thousands of different languages, and all kinds of Christians know that our salvation is a gift from God through Jesus.

Possible activity:

Wittenberg Door (preschool and elementary)—The Reformation started when Martin Luther hammered a piece of paper to the church door in Wittenburg, Germany. This was a list of 95 things that needed to change about the church. *Activity:* Prepare a large red church door on a wall, and label it Wittenberg Door. Prepare half-page coloring sheets with statements like "We are saved by Jesus alone," "The Bible in our own language," and "Jesus is all we need." Then have the kids put the sheets up on the door with sticky-tac.

Prayer: Dear God, As we remember Martin Luther and many Reformers from the past, may the Reformation 500 years ago be meaningful to the children here today. May your reforming power be reflected upon their lives in the very same way, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**