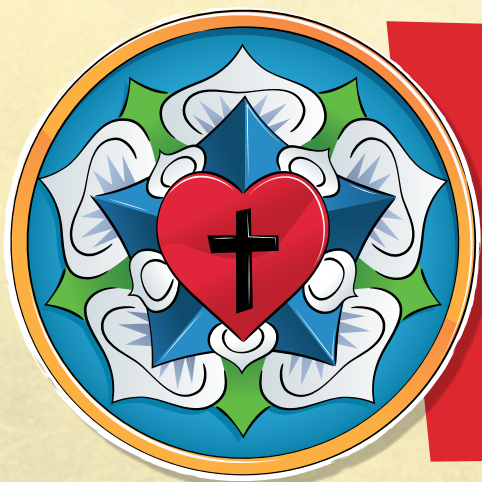


THIS IS MOST CERTAINLY TRUE!

MEET MARTIN LUTHER
+
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
+
LUTHER'S SEAL
+
A MIGHTY FORTRESS



CHILDREN'S MESSAGES FOR REFORMATION

For the Four Sundays of October
or Any Time of Year

MEET MARTIN LUTHER

A Children's Sermon for the First Sunday of October (or any time)

(Needed: a gavel)

Hello, boys and girls. Today I am going to talk to you about a very important man of God. His name was Martin Luther. He was born on November 10, 1483, in the town of Eisleben in Germany. He went to school and studied history and the Bible. He planned on being a lawyer. In school Martin was taught that when people broke the law, they were punished. *(Hold up the gavel and pound it on a hard surface.)* Pound, pound. Martin knew that God had laws, too, called the Ten Commandments. "If I break God's law, God will punish me," he thought. "But if I am very good, could I earn God's love?"

When Martin grew up, he started to go to law school. *(Pound gavel.)* Pound, pound. On the way to school one stormy night, Martin was almost struck by lightning, and he thought he was going to die. He prayed, "Save me, and I will become a monk." Martin Luther lived, and he kept his promise to God by quitting law school and going to live in a monastery only weeks later to become a monk. Martin spent time in the monastery following their strict orders and reading the Bible. He knew that he was a sinner who should be punished for his sins, so he spent time punishing himself by not eating and even by hurting himself. *(Pound gavel.)* Pound, pound. He wondered how he could please God. Then one day he read this verse in the Bible. It said: "The righteousness of God is revealed through faith" (Romans 1:17). He realized that the righteousness of God is a gift we receive by faith in Jesus. He saw that we don't need to punish ourselves for our sins anymore. Jesus has made us righteous, which is a fancy word for "good," by taking on our punishment and being nailed to a cross *(Pound gavel and say, "Pound, pound.")* to suffer and die in our place and rise again that we might be forgiven.

At the time, the church was still teaching that you had to pay for your sins and do good things to be forgiven. Church leaders were even selling these coupons of sorts called indulgences that they said would forgive people's sins. But Martin knew the truth that we are only forgiven through Jesus. So on October 31, 1517, he nailed 95 Theses, which is a fancy word for statements, on the door of his church *(Pound the gavel and say, "Pound, pound.")* to say that indulgences were wrong.

We now call October 31 each year Reformation Day because it was the day that Christianity began a reformation, a change, that we are still feeling the effects of today. Because of what Martin Luther did on that day, the Bible's message that we are saved by Jesus' death on the cross came to light. People came to understand that we have a loving God, not an angry God, who wants only to be with us forever in heaven, and he sent his Son, Jesus, to make that happen.

Martin Luther would spend the rest of his life preaching that Good News of God's love in Jesus to the people around him. His writings about the good news were spread far and wide because of the invention of the printing press, and he even translated the Bible into German.

At one point, Martin was called into a court *(Pound gavel and say, "Pound, pound.")* to renounce, or deny, everything he had written. But he would not do it. He said, "Here I stand. I can do no other. So help me God." He had to go into hiding in a castle for a while after that because some people wanted to arrest him. Later, he got married had six children. He died on February 18, 1546, but his words and message live on in our hearts and in our lives of faith each day.

Dear Jesus, thank you for the life of Martin Luther, who showed us that you nailed our sins to the cross. (Pound the gavel and say, "Pound, pound.") Help us to remember that there is nothing more that we need to do to be saved. Amen.

Activities for MEET MARTIN LUTHER

Martin was baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

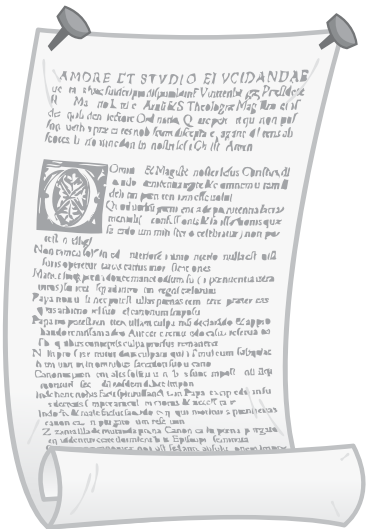
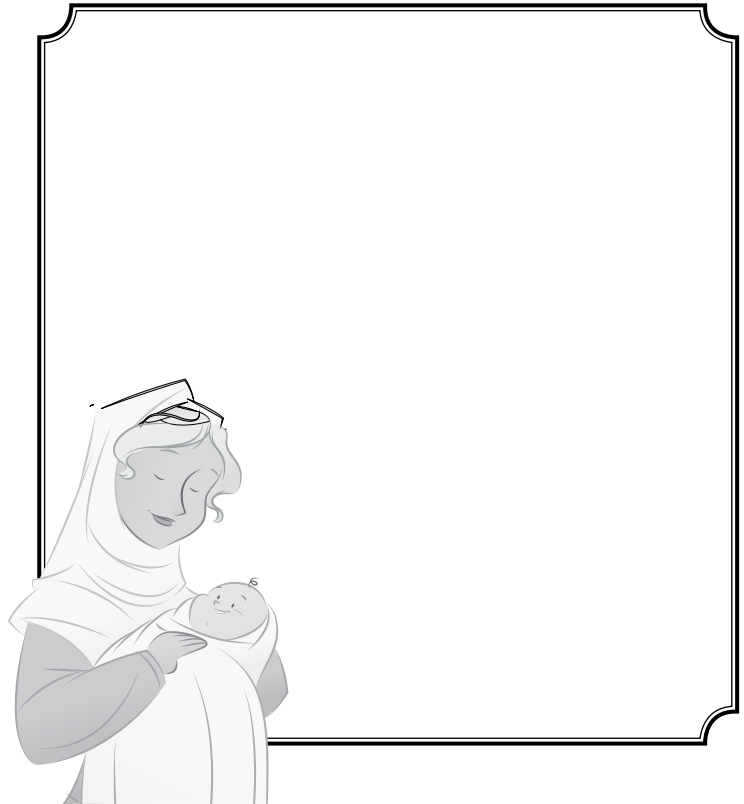
Draw a picture of or a symbol of the Trinity here.

Scramble

Unscramble these words from Martin Luther's Life

- RWALYE _____
- YNMARGE _____
- KNOM _____
- EVIFGOR _____
- DANST _____

LAWYER, GERMANY, MONK, FORGIVE, STAND



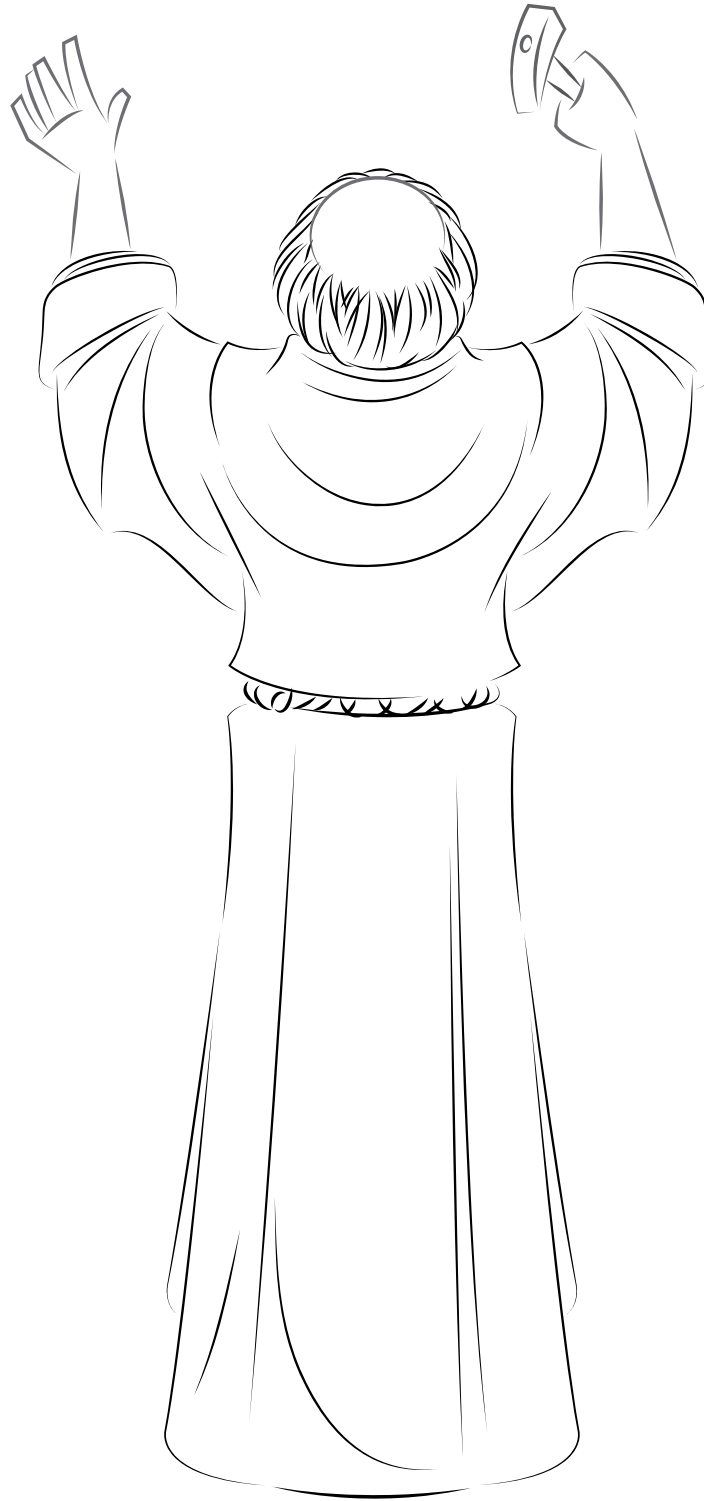
- LOVE
- RIGHTEOUS
- MIGHTY
- GOD
- FORTRESS
- FAITH
- GRACE
- FORGIVEN

Martin found the Good News of God's love and grace in the Bible. Find the words from the Good News.

R I G H T E O U S G T M
 N F O A P M B I A V E I
 J O S E F A I T H E R G
 N R G Y Y A A N H R R H
 I T G T O N Y S E G I T
 G R Q H L U T H R T F Y
 H E F O R G I V E N I N
 T S A I S L R D G O D U
 O S U M U Z J G V N D O
 X N R N D D F W E K F C
 O G P G R A C E L D S I
 C L O V E L R F U L V X

MEET MARTIN LUTHER

A Coloring Sheet for Reformation



Draw the door on which Martin posted his 95 Theses.

Color the completed picture!

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8-9