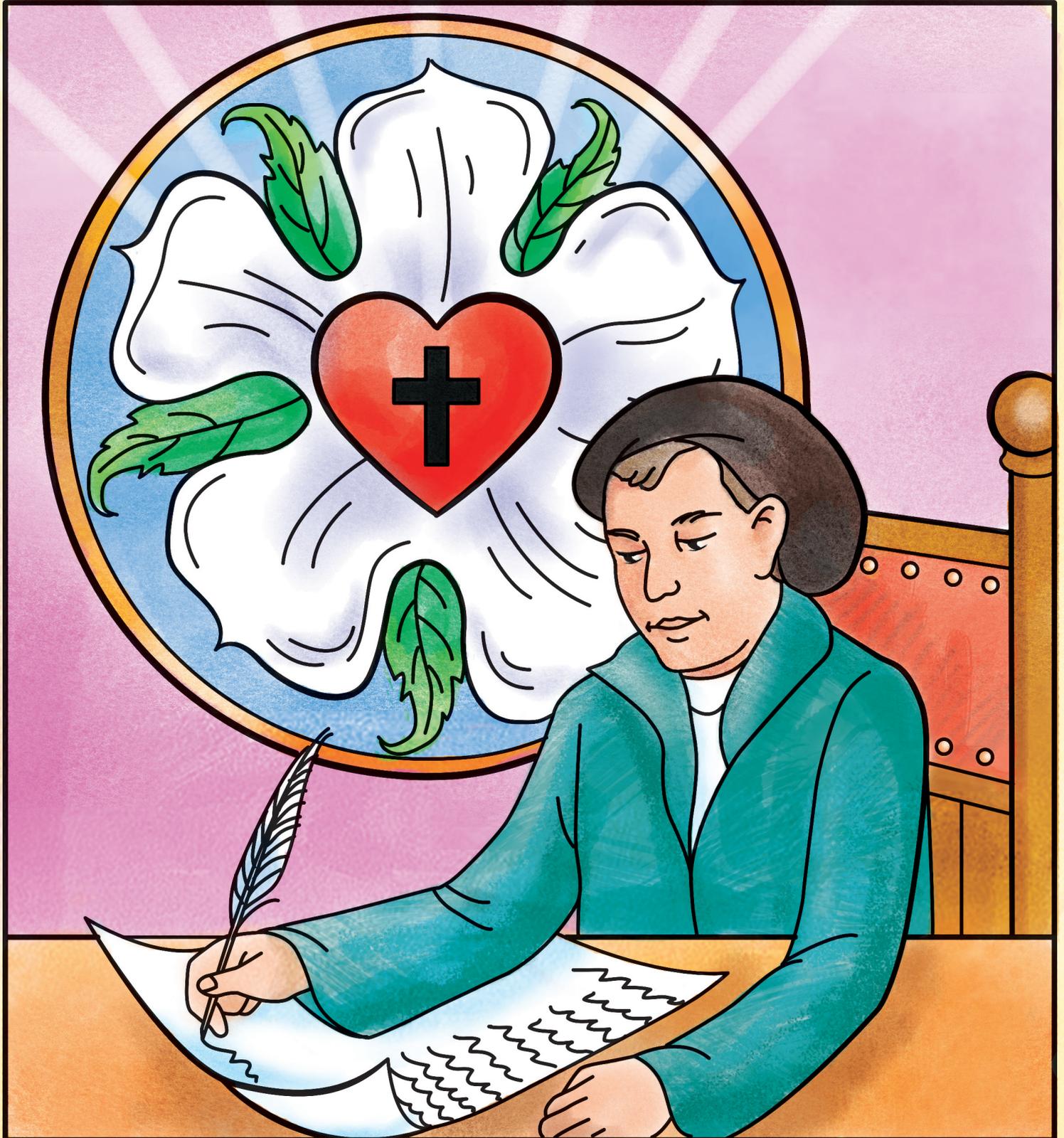


Reformation A-Z

CELEBRATING THE REFORMATION WITH GOD'S YOUNGEST BLESSINGS



Reformation A-Z

CELEBRATING THE REFORMATION WITH
GOD'S YOUNGEST BLESSINGS

by Drew D. Gerdes

illustrated by Kathie Kelleher



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FOREWORD

The Reformation is a special time in history that changed the world. Thanks to Martin Luther and his tireless efforts to change a church that had strayed from Scripture, we have our Lutheran churches and schools today! Many others have benefited from the work brought about by Luther and the Reformation.

Lutheran churches and schools have a special opportunity and responsibility to teach young children about God's love shown through Jesus' death and resurrection. Because of God's grace, all people can have eternal life in heaven!

The activities in this booklet are designed for your use in a variety of ways. They can be used alphabetically or in any order. Many early childhood teachers introduce special alphabet letters throughout the school year. The pages in this booklet allow educators to teach specific parts of the Reformation at specific times during the year.

With the 500th anniversary of the Reformation approaching, I encourage you to add this special information into your regular curriculum. Additionally, each page contains activities for families to engage in at home. Encourage your families to extend learning from school into their daily lives too. When schools and families form a partnership, extended learning can grow. The opportunity for families to learn more about the significance of the Reformation is now!

God's blessings to you now and always!

Drew D. Gerdes

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Aa

All

Jesus died and rose for all people.
Martin Luther wanted to make sure all
people knew the Gospel message.



“He died for all” (2 Cor. 5:15).

Reformation at Home: Talk with your child about who Jesus is. Ask the following questions: “Do you know that Jesus loves you very much?” and “Tell me more about what Jesus did to share His love for everyone.”

Bb Bible

The Bible is God's special book for everyone. Martin Luther translated the Bible into German, a language the people were able to read. When Luther was young, it was very difficult for people to have Bibles because they were very expensive and written in a language many people could not read.



**“Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path”** (Ps. 119:105).

Reformation at Home: Locate a Bible that is special to your family and make sure your child knows where it is. Consider purchasing a Bible that is designed especially for young children. Read a Bible storybook together at bedtime.

CC

Catechism

Martin Luther wrote the Small and Large Catechisms as a way for families to learn about God's love. Today, they are found in one book. Do you have a catechism at home? Do you have one in your classroom?



“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it” (Prov. 22:6).

Reformation at Home: Spend time together as a family talking about ways you can learn about God's love. Are there any books or special items that your family uses as reminders of what God has done for you?

Dd

Door

On Oct. 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses on the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany. These statements shared what Luther found to be true after studying the Bible.



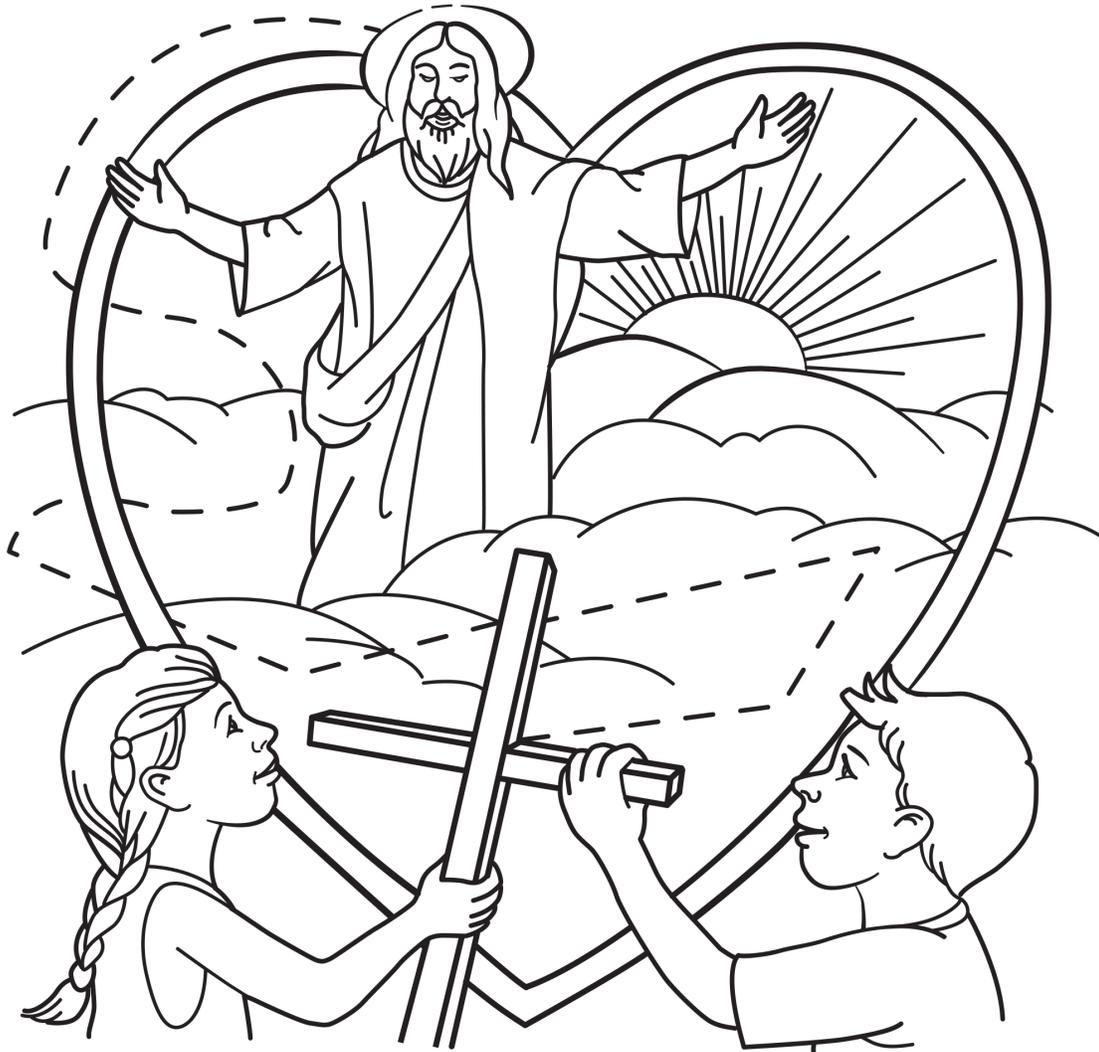
“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness” (2 Tim. 3:16).

Reformation at Home: Color this picture with your child and hang it on a door in your home as a reminder of the significance of the Reformation.

Ee

Everlasting

Martin Luther wanted people to know that God's love for them is special and everlasting. God's love, grace and forgiveness are for all people. As Christians, we know that we will have eternal life in heaven.



TRACE THE LINES TO JOIN THE CHILDREN TO JESUS

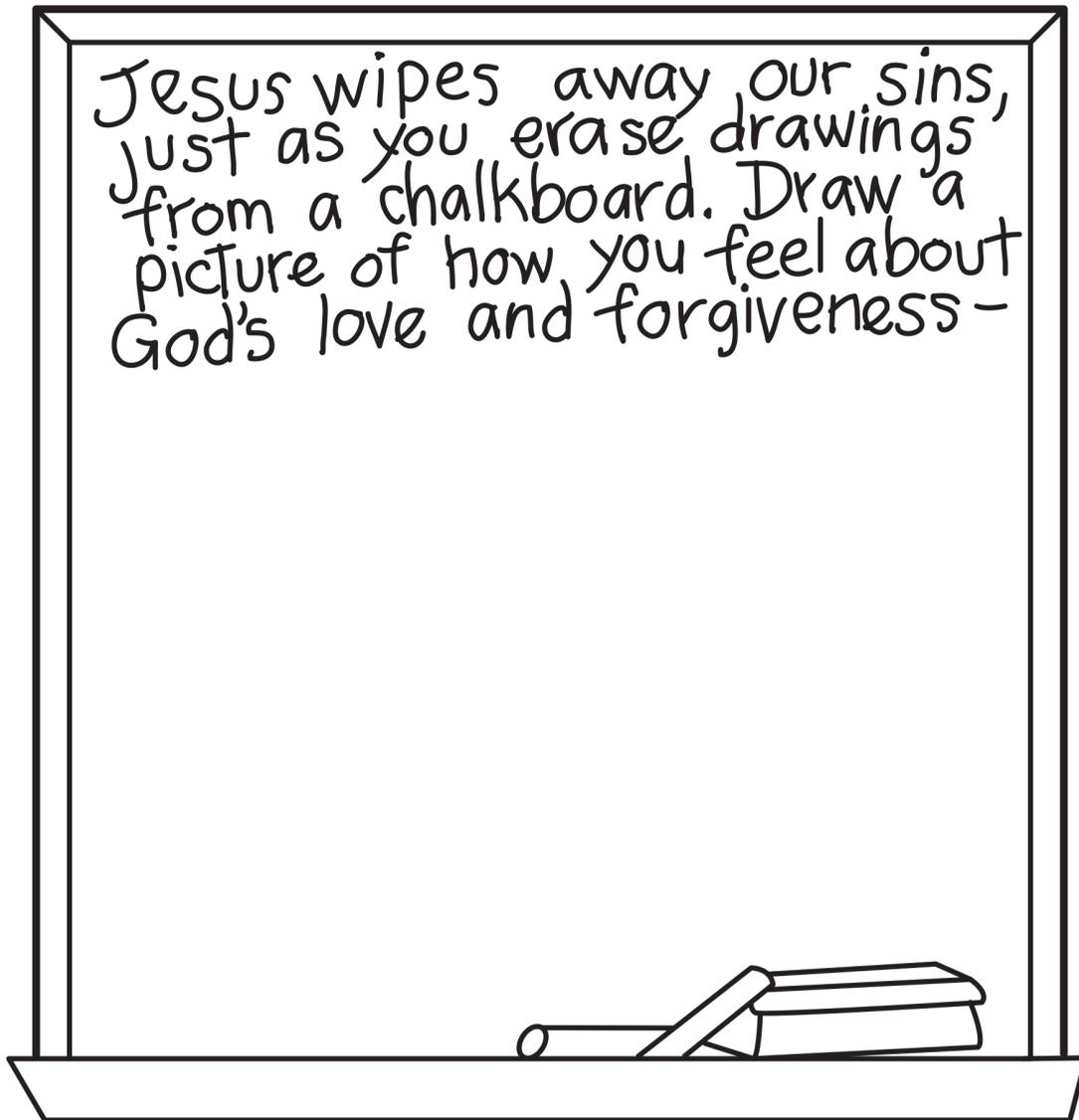
“For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life” (John 6:40a).

Reformation at Home: Spend some time outside, looking up at the sky. Talk with your child about how big God's world is and that He created it all. Ask your child, “What do you think heaven will be like?” and “Tell me why heaven is so special.”

Ff

Forgive

Martin Luther wanted the people to know their sins were forgiven because Jesus died on the cross and rose again. We cannot earn God's forgiveness — Jesus already did that for us!



“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you” (Eph. 4:32).

Reformation at Home: Help your child understand forgiveness by using a dry-erase board or chalkboard and writing down some of the wrong things we might do (pushing, not cleaning up, saying mean words, etc.). Reinforce the concept of forgiveness by erasing everything that was written down, and remind your child that God wipes away our sins because of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Gg

God

When Martin Luther was young, he was afraid of God. After studying the Bible, he learned that God is full of love! Luther did a lot of work to make sure all people were able to know of God's great love. God sent Jesus to earth to show His love for us.

GOD'S LOVE IS FOR
EVERYONE
TELL YOUR FRIENDS!



**“Beloved, let us love one another,
for love is from God”** (1 John 4:7a).

Reformation at Home: Talk about love. What are some things you love to eat or do? Ask your child, “How can you show God’s love with others?”

Hh

Heart

Martin Luther's seal helps us remember some of the important things Luther taught. Look for the heart in the picture below. Luther included a red heart in his seal to teach that faith causes love, joy and peace to grow in our hearts. God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to die and rise again for our forgiveness!

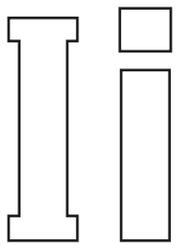


**“Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, rejoice”** (Phil. 4:4).

Reformation at Home: Sing “Jesus Loves Me” with your child and consider making it a special song to share at bedtime each night.

Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! He who died
Heaven’s gates to open wide.
He has washed away my sin,
Lets His little child come in.
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.



Indulgences

When Martin Luther became a pastor, the church said that people could buy papers to reduce the punishment for their sins. A man named John Tetzel was one of the people who sold these papers. Luther knew that only God can forgive sins, and because of Jesus' death and resurrection, our sins are forgiven!



“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved” (Acts 16:31).

Reformation at Home: Use a piece of paper from home and show your child how to draw a cross. Can you draw both large and small crosses? How many crosses can you draw on a piece of paper? Use a variety of pencils, crayons, markers or paints to create your picture, and be sure to display it in a special place.

Jj

Justification

Martin Luther knew that there is nothing we can do to earn favor in God's eyes. God already loves us, and that's why He sent Jesus to earth for the salvation of all people. We are made just by our faith, which is a special gift from God.



“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 5:1).

Reformation at Home: Read a favorite Bible story with your child at bedtime. Talk about the ways God shows His love and power in the story.

Kk

Katie

Katie Luther was Martin Luther's wife. Her full name was Katherine, and she met Martin while working for the church as a nun. During the Reformation, Katie played a significant role in defining family life. Martin and Katie Luther had six children.



“He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD” (Prov. 18:22).

Reformation at Home: Mothers and grandmothers are very special. Give your mom or grandma a special hug and tell her how much you love her!

L Lutheran

Lutheran schools and churches are named for Martin Luther, who helped to reform a church that had strayed from Scripture. Luther reminded believers that they are saved by God's grace — God's unmerited and unconditional gift to the world. Lutheran schools and churches teach what Luther taught: the Gospel message!

EVERYONE IS
WELCOME AT OUR
CHURCH



“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

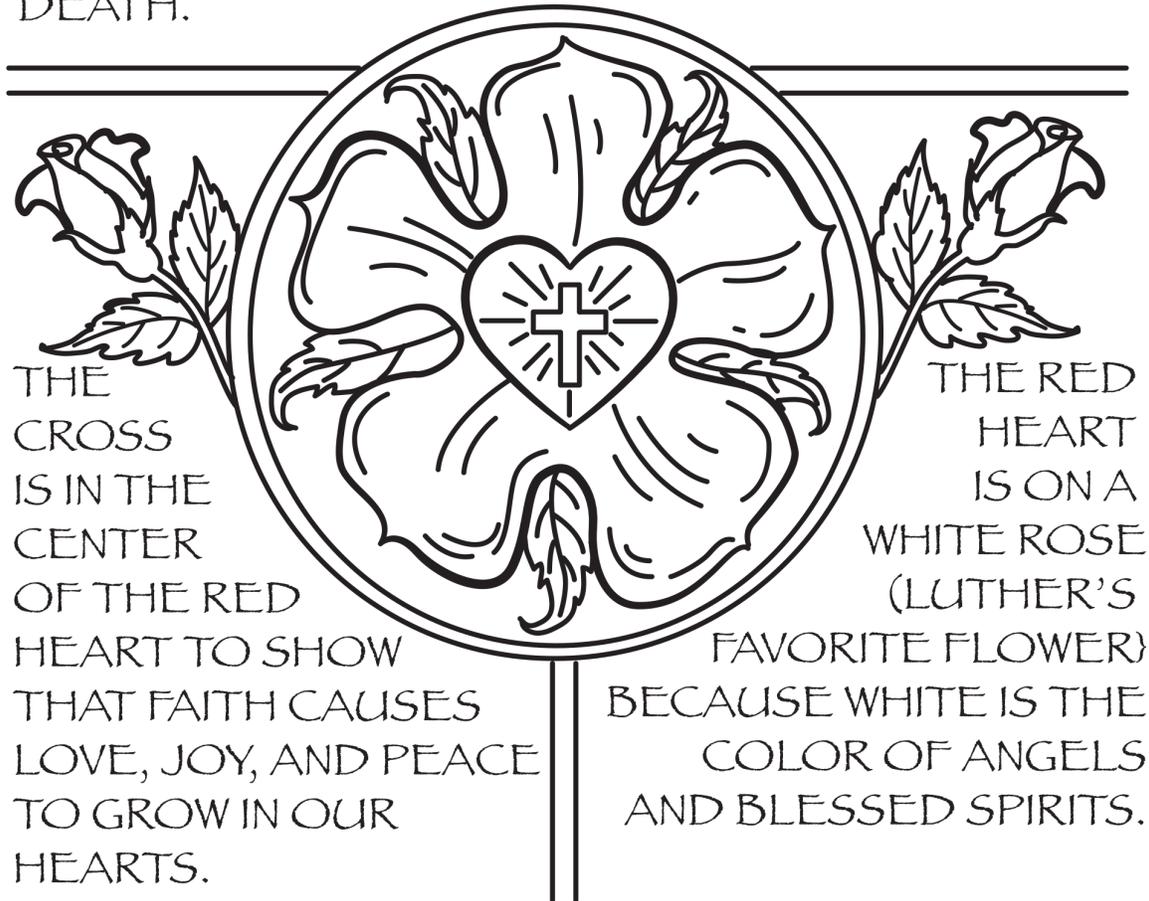
Reformation at Home: Use a computer or smartphone to find pictures of different churches. On each picture, find the cross. Talk about how special your church is and why you like worshipping God at your church.

Mm

Martin

Martin Luther was the leader of the Reformation. His work began a significant undertaking for many churches. Because of the work of Luther, we have our school today, and we learn about the teachings Luther learned from reading God's Word, the Bible.

IN THE CENTER IS A BLACK CROSS THAT REMINDS US THAT IT IS FAITH IN JESUS THAT SAVES US THROUGH HIS CRUCIFIXION AND DEATH.



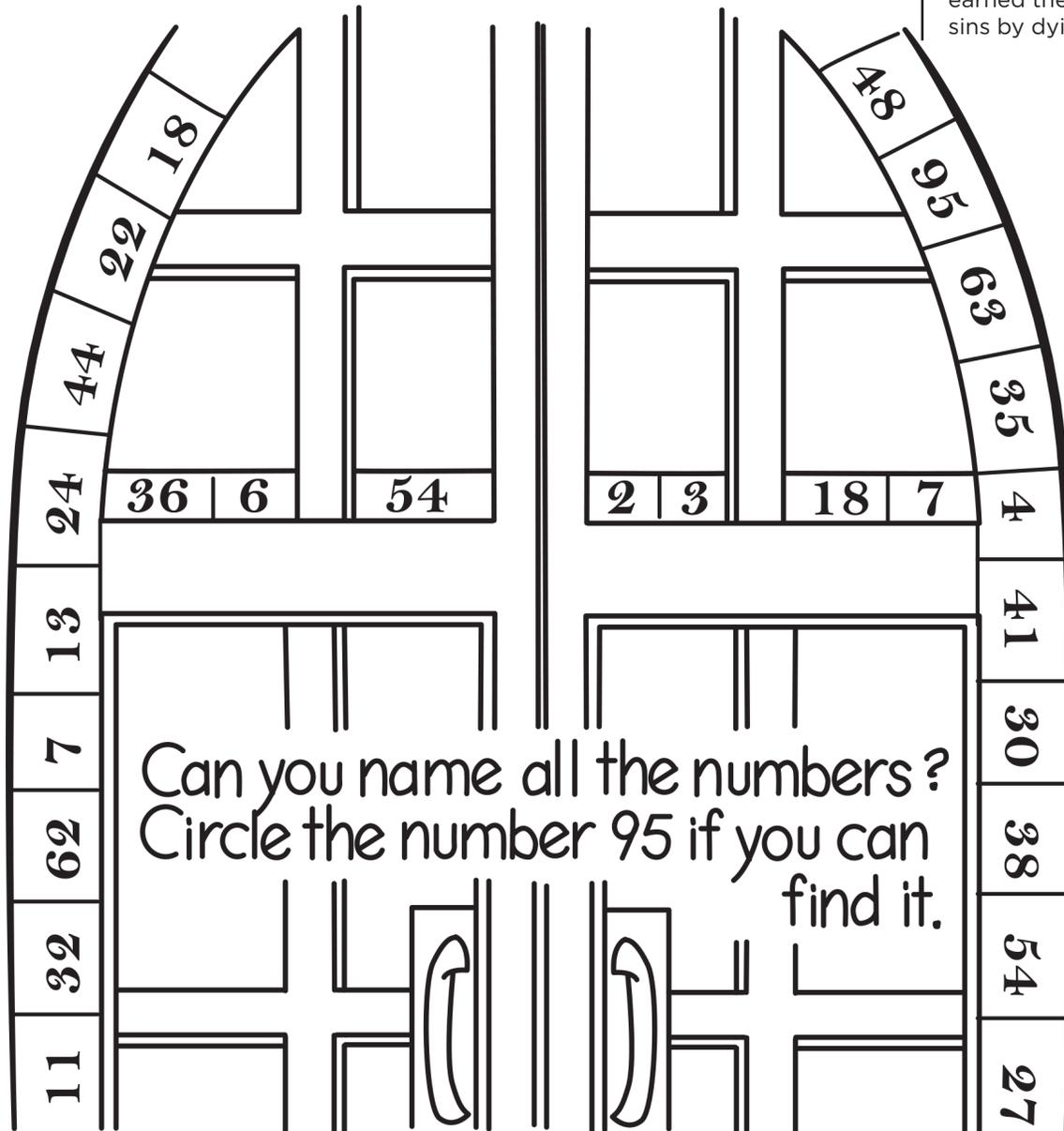
“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness” (2 Tim. 3:16).

Reformation at Home: Color the picture above and discuss the meaning of each color with your child. Feel free to make additional copies, color them and share with family and friends.

Nn

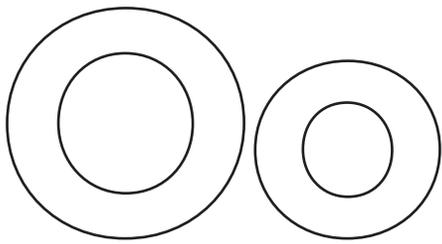
Ninety-five

Ninety-five is a pretty big number! On Oct. 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed 95 sentences on the church door for everyone to read. These sentences were about things the church was doing wrong. Luther wanted everyone to know the truth. Because Luther studied the Bible, he came to learn that Jesus earned the forgiveness for sins by dying on the cross.



“But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8).

Reformation at Home: Practice counting! Try to find a large collection of items and count out 95 of them. (Pennies, M&M’s, marshmallows, Legos or pasta noodles might be good items for counting.)



October

The 500th anniversary of the Reformation is on Oct. 31. On this date, Martin Luther nailed his 95 sentences, or theses, on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany. This started a very important time in history that would change the world forever. Thanks to Luther, we have our Lutheran church and school today!



How old are you?
Color candles on the cake to show your age.

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Eph. 2:10).

Reformation at Home: Look through a calendar at home. Find the birthdates of those in your family. Look for Oct. 31 and draw a cross on that date as a reminder to celebrate the anniversary of the Reformation!

Pp Pastor

Martin Luther was a pastor. A pastor is a person who works for the church and helps share the Good News of God's love through preaching, teaching and administering the Sacraments. Pastors do baptisms and weddings, visit people who are in the hospital, attend meetings, and pray with people. Do you know who your pastor is? The next time you see your pastor, give him a high-five!

PASTORS SHARE
GOD'S LOVE



WITH ALL PEOPLE

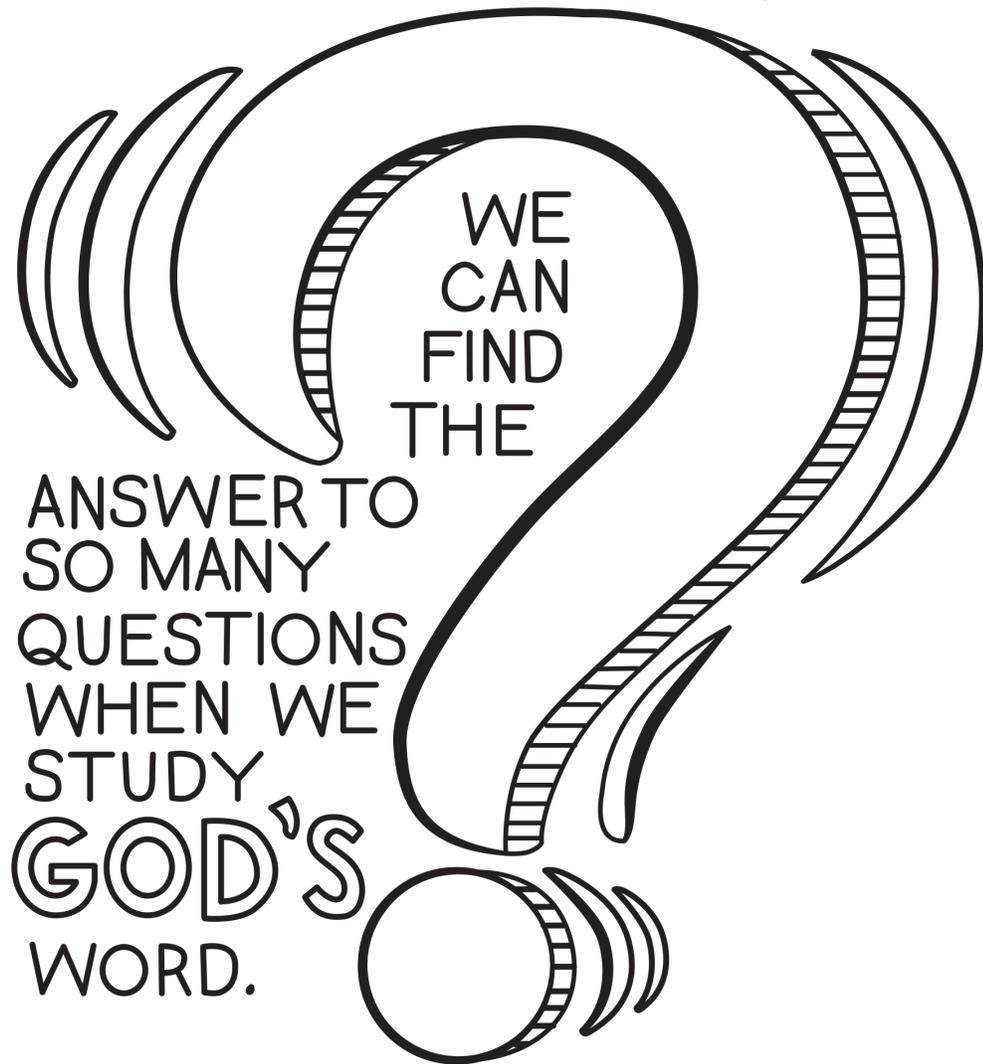
“And he said to them, ‘Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation’ (Mark 16:15).

Reformation at Home: During your bedtime prayers, say a prayer for your pastor or teacher. Consider writing your pastor or teacher a special note of thanks for helping you learn more about God's love.

Qq

Question

When Martin Luther was young, he had many questions about the Bible and what it said. Many people were not able to read the Bible because it was written in a different language. Luther liked to answer the questions people had about God's Word. Because Luther knew it was important for people to find answers to their questions, he translated the Bible into a language that the people could read. Who could you ask if you had a question about God's Word?



**“Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path”** (Ps. 119:105).

Reformation at Home: Young children love to ask questions. Make a list of questions your child might like to ask God. (For example, “Why do zebras have stripes?” or “How do flowers grow?”)

Rr

Reformation

The word *reformation* means “to change.” Martin Luther started the Reformation movement when he started sharing what the Bible really said. Luther began to write many books that were very popular with people. The Reformation began a movement that helped many people fully understand the truth of God’s Word. The Reformation helped change a church that had strayed from Scripture.



has made an impact around the world

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God” (Eph. 2:8).

Reformation at Home: The word *Reformation* comes from the word reform, which means “to change.” Martin Luther tried to change a church that had strayed from Scripture. Use some playdough with your child and change the clump into artistic creations.

Ss

Savior

One of the important things Martin Luther wanted people to know was that Jesus is their Savior. Jesus' death and resurrection paid the price for our sins. There is nothing we can do to earn forgiveness; the price has already been paid by Jesus, our Savior! This is what we call grace, the free gift of God's love.



“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

Reformation at Home: How wonderful it is to know that Jesus is our Savior! Make an artistic collage with your child with a cross at the center as a reminder that Jesus is at the center of all we do. Decorate your collage with glitter, stickers or other special items you have at home.

Tt

Tetzel

John Tetzel was a man who tried to sell people papers to reduce their amount of “penance” for their sins. This made Martin Luther very angry, because he knew that only God, not good works, can forgive sins. Luther knew by reading the Bible that Jesus earned the forgiveness for our sins. Luther wrote the 95 Theses to tell why he disagreed with many of the things the church was doing. He nailed these sentences on the church door on Oct. 31, 1517, for everyone to read.



“But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8).

Reformation at Home: With your child, read the story of Jesus’ death and resurrection. Use the Bible or a storybook you may have. Explain that while Jesus’ death on the cross was sad, His resurrection on Easter morning was something exciting to celebrate!

Uu

Understand

God gave us the Bible so we may better understand our faith and the love He has for us. Martin Luther wrote many books that help us understand grace — God’s great, free gift. On earth, we will never understand all of God’s unique characteristics, but in heaven, we will be with Him in a perfect place. What can you do to learn more about God?



“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding” (Prov. 3:5).

Reformation at Home: Young children love learning new things. Enjoy some quiet time with your child while reading, playing a game or learning a new skill. Consider baking cookies, planting a flower or engaging in something your child enjoys.

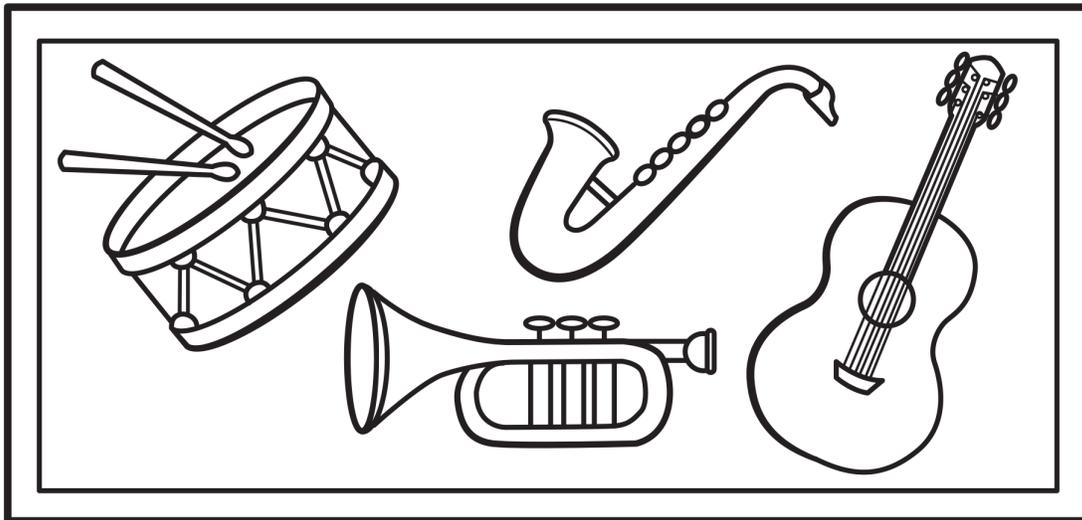
Vv

Voice

Martin Luther loved music. He used his voice to sing many songs of praise to God. He was good at playing the guitar and lute too. Luther wrote many songs, or hymns, that we still sing in church worship services today. Singing is one way that you can praise God. What are some of your favorite songs to sing in school or church?



THESE CHILDREN LOVE TO SING!
COLOR THE INSTRUMENTS YOU THINK THE
CHILDREN COULD PLAY WHILE THEY SING

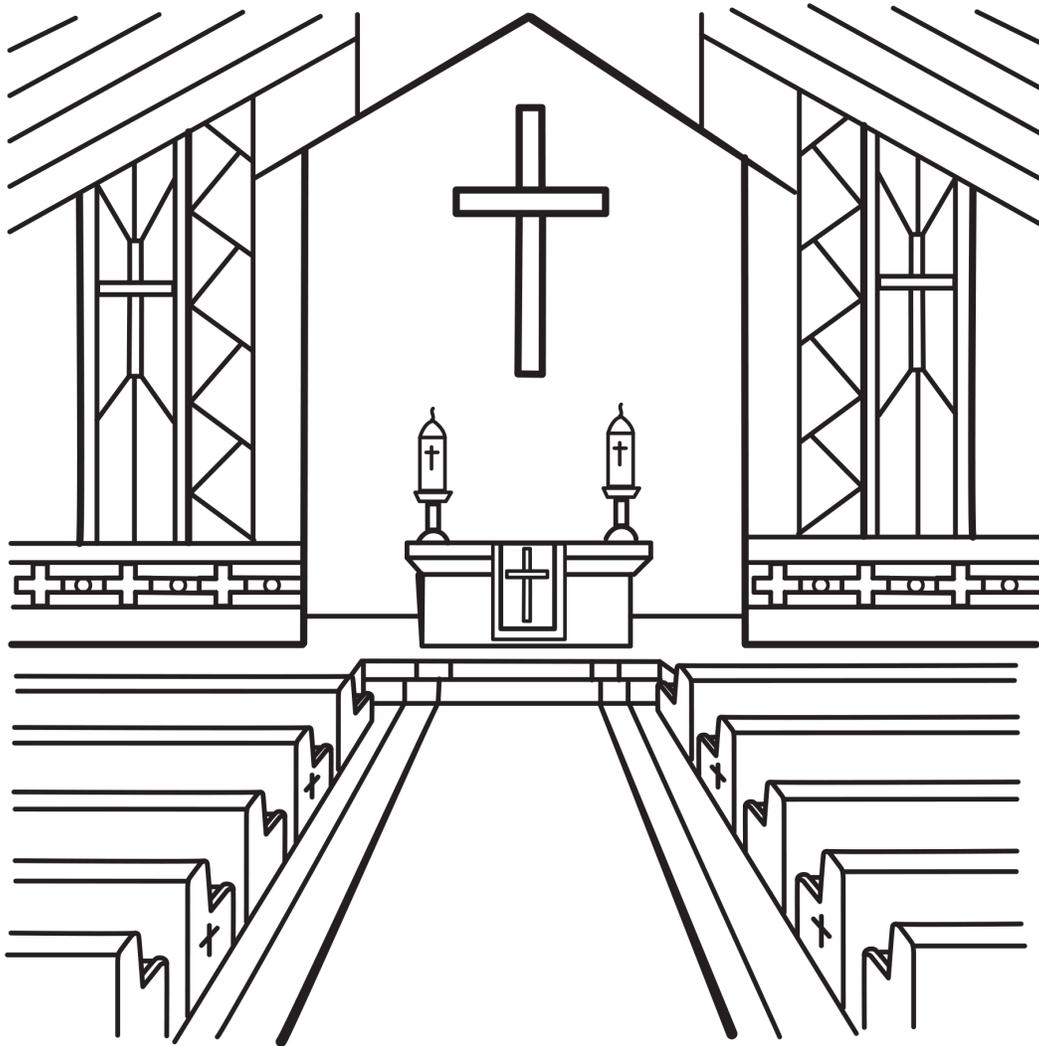


“Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!” (Ps. 100:2).

Reformation at Home: Ask your child, “What are some of your favorite songs about Jesus?” Have your child teach you some of their favorite songs, and join with him in singing.

Ww Worship

God wants us to worship Him. We worship God by singing, praying and attending church with others. We praise God and learn more about Him in worship. Many times we worship in a church or classroom. Martin Luther knew that it was important for Christians to worship God. Luther was a pastor who preached and wrote many songs. What are some things you see in church when you worship God?



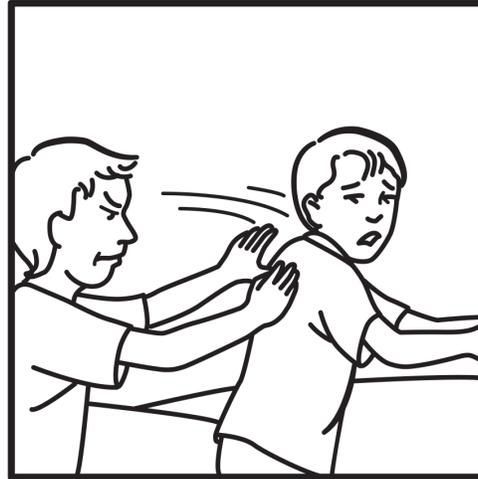
“For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised” (1 Chron. 16:25a).

Reformation at Home: Talk about the things your family does when attending worship services at your church. Where do you sit? What colors might you see? What do you hear when you are in church?

Xx

Example

As Christians, it is important that we set a good example for others to follow. Martin Luther worked hard to set an example for others. He studied his Bible, attended worship to praise God and receive His gifts, and helped others in so many ways. What are some things you can do to set a good, Christian example for others to follow?



Color the pictures where children are showing a good example.
Put an X on pictures where children are not showing a good example.

“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children” (Eph. 5:1).

Reformation at Home: Discuss with your child how you can be a Christian example to others. What can you do to share God’s love with someone else? Can you share a treat with a neighbor? Can you donate old toys or clothes to someone who needs them? Look into participating in a special service project that can be done in your community as a family.

Yy

Yearn

To yearn means to really want something. Some children yearn for a special toy when it's their birthday. Martin Luther yearned for a world that would really know how special God's love is. Some people were afraid of God, and while Luther rightly feared Him as well, he knew that God is full of love and goodness. Unfortunately, some people did not agree with Luther, and they wanted him in jail. Even when Luther was treated badly, he still worked hard to teach people what the Bible really said. Do you yearn that everyone would know about Jesus?



Martin Luther

wanted everyone to know the special news of Jesus' death and resurrection.

“For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus” (Phil. 1:8).

Reformation at Home: Discuss with your child and make a list of things she yearns to learn. Does your child yearn to ride a bike or shoot a basketball? Does your child yearn to read or paint a picture?

Zz

Zeal

Martin Luther had a great zeal to share the Gospel message. Zeal means to have a lot of energy about something. Some children have great zeal about playing soccer or painting pictures. Because Luther studied the Bible, he knew the important news it contained, and he had great zeal to make sure everyone knew the truth about the love and forgiveness offered through Jesus' death and resurrection.



“Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation” (Mark 16:15).

Reformation at Home: As a Christian, we have a special job to share God's love with others. Make it a part of your regular routine to study God's Word, read the Bible and worship together as a family. How can you share your zeal for God's love with others?



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