

The Life of Martin Luther
Father of the Protestant Reformation

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COURSE INFORMATION

The Life of Martin Luther is an online *DeafPah!* course that tells the story of Father of the Protestant Reformation. Your ASL narrator for this story is Bob Lenderman.

You may download the video lessons and this study guide for free from deafjesus.org.

The textbook for this course is *Luther – Biography of a Reformer*, by Frederick Nohl, (Concordia Publishing House, 2013). You can buy the book from www.cph.org.

Other helpful books about Martin and Katharina Luther:

Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther, by Roland Bainton

Martin Luther: The Man Who Rediscovered God and Changed the World, by Eric Metaxas

Kitty, My Rib: The Heartwarming Story of a Woman of Courage and Devotion, by E. Jane Mall

Writings by Martin Luther available on the internet:

<https://christian.net/resources/selected-works-of-martin-luther-1483-1546/>

<https://christian.net/pub/resources/text/wittenberg/wittenberg-luther.html>

Luther's own description of his conversion to Christ and his dispute with the church over indulgences: <https://christian.net/pub/resources/text/wittenberg/luther/preflat-eng.txt>

95 Theses

<http://bookofconcord.org/95theses.php>

<http://cyclopedia.lcms.org/display.asp?t1=t&word=THESES.NINETY-FIVE.OFLUTHER>

<https://christian.net/pub/resources/text/wittenberg/luther/web/ninetyfive.html>

Also included in the appendix of this study guide.

STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS

Lesson # 1 Martin Luther – Introduction

Watch video #1.

1. Some people are confused about the name “Martin Luther.” They think that means Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. How did Dr. King get the name “Martin Luther”?
2. Who or what became the #1 authority for Martin Luther? _____

Lesson # 2 Martin Luther – Why study his life?

Read *Luther – Biography of a Reformer*, “A Word About Great Men”

Watch video #2.

1. What are three important things that we can learn from Martin Luther’s life that help us today? (*These three points are in the ASL video, not the book.*)
 - (a)
 - (b)
 - (c)

Lesson # 3 Luther’s Boyhood Home

Read *Luther – Biography of a Reformer*, Chapter 1.

Watch video #3.

1. Who were Martin Luther’s Parents? _____
2. In what German city was Martin Luther born? _____
3. How old was Martin Luther in the year Christopher Columbus discovered America (1492)?
4. After Martin’s father quit farming, he succeeded in what business?
5. In what city did Martin’s parents make their permanent family home? _____

Lesson # 4 Martin Luther in school

Watch video #4.

1. Martin Luther received his education two languages: German and _____
2. Martin received his high school education in residential schools in what two cities?
 - (a) _____
 - (b) _____
3. Where did Martin attend university? _____
4. After Martin graduated from college, his father wanted him to stay in school to become a _____.

Lesson # 5 Martin Luther Feared Death

Read *Luther – Biography of a Reformer*, Chapter 2.

Watch video #5.

1. What life experiences did Martin have that made him afraid of God and afraid of death?
2. What happened in July 1505 that convinced Martin that he should quit the university and become a monk?

Lesson # 6 Luther Becomes a Priest

Watch video #6.

1. Describe Martin Luther's life as a monk.

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2. Name some things that a monk could never do or have.
3. How did Martin feel about celebrating the Mass (Lord's Supper) for his first time?
4. How did Martin's father feel about Martin becoming a priest?
5. Why did Martin's father feel that way?

Lesson # 7 Professor Martin Luther

Watch video #7.

This lesson introduces two important people and one important place in Martin Luther's life.

1. **Who** invited Martin Luther to teach at the university? _____
2. In **what city** in Saxony was that university? _____
3. **Who** was the ruler of Saxony? _____
4. The Castle Church in that city was famous for what? _____

Lesson # 8 Luther's Search for Forgiveness

Watch video #8.

1. Luther found something that could help him know God. What?
2. Luther's life as a priest did not fully give him peace. Why not?
3. Who tried to teach Luther about God's love and forgiveness?

Lesson # 9 Luther Visits Rome

Watch video #9.

1. Martin Luther saw many things in Rome that upset him. What and why?

Lesson # 10 DOCTOR Martin Luther

Read *Luther – Biography of a Reformer*, Chapter 3.

Watch video #10.

1. John Staupitz ordered Luther to go earn his Doctor of Theology degree, preach, and teach, **where?**

Lesson # 11 Luther Saved by Grace Through Faith

Watch video #11.

1. Why did Martin Luther hate the justice of God?
2. Which Bible verse taught Luther trust God?
3. That Bible verse says that we are saved how?

Lesson # 12 Forgiveness for Sale

Watch video #12.

*The church's practice of selling forgiveness is called **indulgences**.*

1. Whom did Albert hire to sell indulgences?
2. What did Albert do with his half of the money?
3. What did the Pope do with his half of the money?
4. Why was Frederick upset about Tetzel?

Lesson # 13 October 31, 1517

Watch video #13.

1. Why was Martin Luther against indulgences and relics?
2. What did Martin Luther do on October 31, 1517?

Lesson # 14 Luther's 95 Theses

Watch video #14.

You can read the full text of Luther's 95 Theses in the appendix of this study guide.

1. Which of the theses (sentences) do you like? Why?

2. Luther's 95 Theses made the Pope mad. Why?

Lesson # 15. Grace Alone, Faith Alone...

Watch video #15.

1. As Martin Luther studied the Bible, what happened to his belief in purgatory?

2. These four Latin phrases became the slogan for the Reformation.
Translate each phrase to English:

Sola Gratia _____

Sola Fide _____

Sola Scriptura _____

Solus Christus _____

Explain to your mentor:

(a) What does each phrase mean?

(b) These phrases answer what Roman Church teachings?

Lesson # 16 The Battle for the Gospel Begins

Read *Luther – Biography of a Reformer*, Chapter 4.

Watch video #16.

1. Archbishop Albert of Mainz reported Martin Luther's writings to whom?
2. The Dominicans supported who: Luther or Tetzel?
3. The Augustinians supported who: Luther or Tetzel?
4. Who was Cardinal Cajetan? What side did he support?
5. Pope Leo wrote a letter telling John Staupitz to do what?

Lesson # 17 Luther vs Cajetan

Watch video #17

1. Why did Pope Leo need Frederick's support?
2. Luther met with Cajetan where?
3. Luther asked Cajetan to do what?
4. Cajetan asked Luther to do what?
5. John Staupitz released Luther from his vows as an Augustinian monk. Why?

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6. Luther wrote a letter to the Pope, telling the Pope what?

Lesson # 18 Wanted: Dead or Alive!

Watch video #18

1. The Pope tried to trick Frederick into stop protecting Luther. What did the Pope do?
2. Luther promised Miltitz that he will stop writing criticism against his enemies, IF his enemies will do what?

Lesson # 19 Eck vs Luther: The Leipzig Debates

Read *Luther – Biography of a Reformer*, Chapter 5.

Watch video ##19.

1. Why did Eck want to debate against Luther?
2. Eck's debate started, not against Luther, but who?
3. Describe the differences in the ways Carlstadt and Eck debated.
4. Eck and Luther debated what topics or questions?

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5. Describe the differences between Eck and Luther views about the Bible and church tradition.

Lesson # 20 Support for Luther Grows

Watch video #20.

1. Who and where was Erasmus?
2. What book did Erasmus print that was a big help to Martin Luther?
3. What did the German knights want to do for Luther?
4. The German knights wanted Luther to support them doing what?

Lesson # 21 Fanning the Flames of Reformation

Watch video #21.

1. What important booklets did Martin Luther write 1520?
 - (a) _____
 - (b) _____
 - (c) _____
2. Describe Luther's view of the relationship between church and government?

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3. Luther believed who has authority to read and understand the Bible?

4. What are the Roman church's seven sacraments?

(a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

(d) _____

(e) _____

(f) _____

(g) _____

4. Which of those did Luther accept as sacraments?

(a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

5. What did Luther say was wrong about the Roman church's doctrines about the role of clergy (priests) in a Christian's life?

6. What disagreement did Luther have with the Roman church's doctrines about the Lord's Supper?

Lesson # 22 Pope Leo's Final Ultimatum

Watch video #22.

1. What is a "Papal Bull"?
2. Why did Eck and Aleander have trouble spreading the news about the Pope's Bull?
3. Pope Leo demanded the Martin Luther do what?
4. When was the deadline that the Pope gave Luther?
5. After that deadline, what will the Pope do to Luther?
6. What was Luther's answer to Pope Leo?

Lesson # 23 Martin Luther: Heretic!

Watch video #23.

1. On December 10, 1520, Pope Leo X officially declared Martin Luther a heretic (false teacher). The people of Wittenberg, Germany, celebrated, how?
2. Emperor Charles V and German church leaders did not immediately arrest and execute Luther, why?

Lesson # 24 Holy Roman Emperor Charles V

Read *Luther – Biography of a Reformer*, Chapter 6.

Watch video #24.

1. Who were Charles' famous grandfathers?
 - (a) _____
 - (b) _____
2. Before Charles became Emperor, he first became ruler of what country?
3. How did Charles become the Holy Roman Emperor?
4. How old was Charles when he became Emperor?
5. As Charles was coronated (crowned) Emperor, he vowed to do what?

Lesson # 25 Why Worms?

Watch video #25.

1. What did Charles want from the German rulers?
2. What did the German rulers want from Charles?
3. Who was the Pope's representative at Worms?
4. Who was Luther's advocate (supporter) at Worms?

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5. Charles cancelled his first invitation to Luther. Why?

Lesson # 26 Luther On Trial

Watch video #26.

1. The people that lived in the city of Worms – what did they think about Luther?
2. The court ordered Luther to answer two questions:
 - (a) _____
 - (b) _____
3. Luther asked for more time to prepare his answer to the second question. Why?

Lesson # 27 “Here I Stand”

Watch video #27.

1. What was Martin Luther’s final answer to the Emperor’s second question?
2. What reasons did Luther give for his decision?

Lesson # 28 Martin Luther: Criminal Outlaw

Watch video #28.

Emperor Charles V signed an order called “The Edict of Worms” that made Martin Luther a criminal, an outlaw.

1. Charles wanted the German rulers to pass the law against Luther; he did not want to do it without their support. Why?

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2. Charles had trouble getting the law that he wanted approved by the German rulers at the Diet of Worms. How did he finally get the law approved?
3. The Edict of Worms accused Martin Luther of doing what?
4. What did the Edict of Worms say must happen to Martin Luther? ...and to anyone else who spoke or wrote against the Roman Church and its teachings.

Lesson # 29 Martin Luther Kidnapped!

Read *Luther – Biography of a Reformer*, Chapter 7.

Watch video #29.

1. Who kidnapped Martin Luther?
2. Why did they kidnap Luther?
3. Where did they take Luther?

Lesson # 30 Luther Hiding at Wartburg

Watch video #30.

1. How did Luther change the way he looked?
2. What fake name did Luther use while he lived at Wartburg?
3. What book did Luther translate into the German language?

Lesson # 31 Trouble in Wittenberg

Watch video #31.

1. What church rules did Dr Carlstadt and change?

	OLD RULE	NEW WAY
Worship		
Priests' marriage		
The Lord's Supper		
Church statues, pictures, colored windows		

2. What were some of the teachings of the Zickau Prophets?
3. What serious problems did this changes and teachings cause in Wittenberg?

Lesson # 32 Luther is Back!

Read *Luther – Biography of a Reformer*, Chapter 8.

Watch video #32.

1. Why was it dangerous for Luther to leave Wartburg and go back to Wittenberg?
2. Why did he go?
3. What did Luther do to fix problems in Wittenberg?

Lesson # 33 The Great Peasants' War - Part 1 - Conditions

Watch video #33.

1. During Martin Luther's time, Europe had four different "estates" – groups of people:
 - (a) _____
 - (b) _____
 - (c) _____
 - (d) _____
2. Describe the living conditions of the peasant people.
3. Why were poor people excited about Martin Luther?
4. What did the poor people misunderstand about Luther?

Lesson # 34 The Great Peasants' War - Part 2 - Confrontation
Watch video #34.

1. What were some of the things peasants wanted in their “12 Articles”?
2. What things in the 12 Articles did Luther agree and support?
3. What things in the 12 Articles did Luther disagree, and he was against?
4. Luther wanted nobility and peasants to make peace and have an agreement. How?
5. Luther’s suggestion did not work, why?

Lesson # 35 The Great Peasants' War - Part 3 - Catastrophe

Watch video #35.

1. Who was Thomas Muenzer?
2. What did Muenzer teach to people?
3. Luther was not able to calm the people, so he wrote that the German rulers should do what?
4. How many peasants died in Muenzer's rebellion?
5. About how many people died total (both peasants and soldiers) died during the Great Peasants' War?
6. Did the war help improve the peasants' living conditions?
7. The peasants blamed Martin Luther for the war, why?

Lesson # 36 The League of Torgau

Read *Luther – Biography of a Reformer*, Chapter 9.

Watch video #36.

1. After the Diet of Worms, during the next 9 years, Emperor Charles stayed away from Germany. Why?

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2. German rulers divided into two groups:
 - (a) Rulers that supported (who?) _____
 - (b) Rulers that supported (who?) _____
3. Which of those two groups was larger? _____
4. Which group made the League of Torgau? _____
5. Why did they make the League?

6. What does the name “Protestant” mean?

Lesson # 37 Luther’s Education Reforms

Watch video #37.

1. Martin Luther visited many churches in Germany; he was shocked. Why?

2. What did Luther do to answer the problem?

3. What is a catechism?

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4. What are the six parts in Luther's catechism?

(a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

(d) _____

(e) _____

(f) _____

5. Luther wrote his catechisms for whom?

Lesson # 38 God's Word in The Language of The People

Watch video #38.

1. Luther worked on translating the New Testament, how long?

2. Luther worked on translating the Old Testament, how long?

3. Why did translating the Old Testament take so long? (2 reasons)

(a) _____

(b) _____

4. How much money did Luther earn from the sale of his German Bible?

Lesson # 39 Katharina Von Bora

Read *Luther – Biography of a Reformer*, Chapter 10.

Watch video #39.

1. Katharina Von Bora wrote to whom, asking for help to escape from the convent?

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2. How did Katharina and the other nuns escape?

3. Whom did Katharina marry?

Lesson # 40 Martin Luther – Husband & Father

Watch video #40.

1. Why did Katie hide an expensive vase?

2. How many children did Martin Luther have? _____

3. How many of their children died in childhood? _____

4. What are some things that Luther taught his children? _____

Lesson # 41 “God Died?”

Watch video #41.

1. Why did Katie tell Martin that “God died”?

2. That helped Martin, how?

Lesson # 42 Luther & Zwingli

Read *Luther – Biography of a Reformer*, Chapter 11.

Watch video #42.

1. Zwingli lived in what country? _____
2. Zwingli led his reforms in what city? _____
3. Zwingli and Luther had different ways they read and studied the Bible. Describe those differences.

Lesson # 43 The Marburg Meeting

Watch video #43.

1. Who established the meeting at Marburg?
2. Why did he want that meeting?
3. Luther and Zwingli disagreed about the Lord's Supper.
 - (a) Luther believed what?
 - (b) Zwingli believed what?
4. What Bible verse did Luther use to prove his point?

Lesson # 44 The Augsburg Confession – Part 1 – Writing (and Rewriting)

Watch video #44.

1. Emperor Charles want the German princes' help for what?
2. Martin Luther wanted to go to Augsburg with the other Wittenberg professors, but he could not go. Why?
3. Luther stayed behind in Saxony, where? _____
4. Who wrote the final version of the Augsburg Confession? _____
5. Dr. John Eck accused Lutherans of doing what?

Lesson # 45 The Augsburg Confession – Part 2 – Reading

Watch video #45.

1. During the meeting at Augsburg, the Lutheran princes offered to let Emperor Charles do what to them rather than the princes giving up the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
2. Chancellor Christian Beyer read the whole Augsburg Confession to the Emperor. Bishops and princes that supported Rome were surprised. Why?

Lesson # 46 The Augsburg Confession – Part 3 – Response

Watch video #46.

1. Who wrote the Roman church criticism against the Augsburg Confession?
2. Philip Melancthon and the team from Wittenberg wrote a defense for the Augsburg Confession. What is the official title of that defense?

Lesson # 47 The League of Schmalkalden

Watch video #47.

1. Why did the Lutheran princes organize the League of Schmalkalden and the Wittenberg Concord?
2. Prince John Frederick asked Luther to write another statement about his teachings. Why?
3. What is the official title of Luther's statement?
4. Who invented the name "LUTHERAN" to describe followers of Luther's teachings?
5. What did Martin Luther think about "Lutheran" as a church name?

Lesson # 48 Luther's Decline

Read *Luther – Biography of a Reformer*, Chapter 12.

Watch video #48.

1. What happened Martin Luther in Schmalkalden?
2. Prince Philip wanted Luther's blessing to do what?
3. What was Luther's advice?
4. What affect did this situation have on Luther and the Reformation?

Lesson # 49 Luther's Views About Jews

Watch video #49.

Questions for this lesson are from the video.

1. When Martin Luther was young, what was his opinion about Jewish people? What was his advice about how to treat Jews?
2. Many years later a Jewish writer blamed Luther for what?
3. How did Luther respond?
4. Today, what do Lutheran churches think about Luther's later views about Jews?

Lesson # 50 Luther's Death

Watch video #50.

1. Where did Martin Luther die?
2. What other important event in Luther's life happened there?
3. Why did he go there?

Lesson # 51 Buried in Wittenberg

Watch video #51.

1. Martin Luther died at the age of _____ years old.
2. Where in Wittenberg is his body buried?

Lesson # 52 Katie Luther's Final Years

Watch video #52.

Questions for the last four lessons are from the videos.

1. After Martin die, Katie struggled financially. why?
2. Twice she need to leave Wittenberg with her family, why?
 - (a) _____
 - (b) _____
3. During the war, who did Emperor Charles put in prison? _____
4. Who helped support Katie?
 - (a) _____
 - (b) _____

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5. In what city did Katie die and there her body is buried? _____

Lesson # 53 Emperor Charles' Final Years

Watch video #53.

1. Three months after Martin Luther died, Charles did what to German Lutherans?
2. In addition to troubles the Charles had with the Reformation in Germany, what other pressures did he have?
3. After Charles retired, he moved to live where?

Lesson # 54 The Book of Concord

Watch video #54.

1. After Martin Luther died, who became the leader for the Reformation in Wittenberg?
2. Other Reformation leaders complained about Philip Melancthon, why?
3. After Melancthon and the other Reformation leaders died, the Lutheran Churches in Germany changed, how?

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4. Pastors who wanted the German Lutheran Churches to return to the Augsburg Confession (AC) and the teachings of Martin Luther wrote the Formula of Concord (FC). The FC had 12 articles, and each article had three parts:
- (a) _____
- (b) _____
- (c) _____
5. What does “Concord” mean? _____
6. The Lutheran Church collected the AC, FC, the Creeds, Martin Luther’s catechisms, and other important Reformation documents in to *one book*, called what?
7. Church and government leaders signed that book on the 50th anniversary of what important event?

Lesson # 55 Martin Luther’s Legacy
Read *Luther – Biography of a Reformer*, Chapter 13.
Watch video #55.

What are three important things that we can learn from Martin Luther’s life that help us today?

- (a)
- (b)
- (c)

Who was William Tyndale? What did he do?

Important People

Earlier Reformers

John Wycliffe (died 1384) -- England, translated the Latin Bible to English

Jan (John) Hus (died 1415) -- Bohemia, executed (burned at the stake)

People with Luther

Johann Staupitz -- Luther's mentor, head of the Augustinian monastery

Duke Frederick the Wise of Saxony -- Luther's protector

Georg Spalatin -- Duke Frederick's assistant and problem solver in church matters

Andreas Karlstadt -- Dean of Theology at University of Wittenberg, Luther's supervisor

Philip Melanchthon -- Theologian, Wittenberg professor with Luther, wrote confessional documents which are now part of the Lutheran *Book of Concord*.

Augsburg Confession

Apology (Defense) of the Augsburg Confession

Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope

People against Luther

[Hans Luther -- Martin's father]

Church officials:

Pope Leo X (10th)

Aleander -- Leo's representative, later an archbishop

Cardinal Cajetan

Albert -- Archbishop of Mainz, Germany

Johann Tetzel -- Catholic monk, indulgence seller

Johann Eck -- Catholic theologian, debated Luther at Leipzig

Emperor Charles V (5th)

Erasmus -- Catholic theologian

Other reformers during Luther's time

Ulrich Zwingli -- Zurich, Switzerland

John Calvin -- Geneva, Switzerland

William Tyndale -- England

John Knox -- Scotland

Inventor of the movable-type printing press

Johannes Gutenberg

Important Words

Bull

A "bull" is an official doctrine, law, or command from the Pope. Pope Leo X wrote two bulls against Martin Luther:

Exsurge, Domine (June 15, 1520) which denounced Luther -- this is the bull that Luther Burned.

Decet Romanum Pontificem (Jan. 3, 1521) which excommunicated Luther (kicked Luther out of the Catholic Church).

Diet

A political meeting of German princes, with the Emperor presiding. The diet set policies about taxes, laws, military activities. Three diets in Luther's time were important for the Reformation:

The Diet of Worms (1521) where Luther refused to recant his teachings and Emperor Charles V condemned him as a heretic.

The Diet of Speyer (1529) where the German princes refused to enforce the Emperor's Edict of Worms against Luther. They presented their own articles of protest, in favor of religious freedom in Germany (where we get the name "Protestant.")

The Diet of Augsburg (1530) where the German princes signed and presented Philip Melanchthon's Augsburg Confession to Emperor Charles V.

Elector

Noblemen (dukes, princes, etc.) who ruled over various parts of the Holy Roman Empire. They are called "electors" because together they elected (choose) the Emperor, who became their ruler.

Excommunicate, Excommunication

Punish a church member by removing him/her from church membership. That person is no longer allowed to receive the Lord's Supper.

Heresy

Religious teaching that is false.

Heretic

A person who teaches a false religion. The Catholic Church said that Jan Hus, Martin Luther, and all the Protestant reformers were heretics.

Indulgence

An indulgence is an offer from the Pope (in exchange for money) to either reduce a person's time in purgatory, or to fully forgive a person so they could go straight to heaven. Pope Leo X sold indulgences to raise money to build the new church building in Rome. This so upset Martin Luther that he wrote his 95 Theses to complain, which sparked the Reformation.

Purgatory

According to Catholic doctrine, a person who is baptized, but sins again must work off the impurity of his sin, both in this life (by "doing penance") and in the next life, by suffering in purgatory. After that, the Christian will be allowed to enter heaven. The Catholic catechism says: *"All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven. The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned."*

Protestant Christians reject this doctrine as unbiblical. Before Martin Luther fully trusted in God's grace, he believed in purgatory. He even mentioned purgatory in his "95 Theses." But when he finally began to understand what God's forgiveness means, that Christ's sacrifice for us is enough and we can add nothing to it, Luther saw the Bible's clear teaching that when we die, our souls go immediately to our eternal home -- heaven or hell. There is no temporary holding cell called "purgatory."

Even the Catholic Church's officially approved English version of the Bible accurately translates 1 John 1:7-9 *"... the blood of His Son Jesus cleanses us from ALL sin. ... If we acknowledge our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from EVERY wrongdoing."* Our complete purification already was done on the cross.

Recant

When a person recants, he rejects the things that he previously said. The Emperor and the Catholic Church commanded Luther to recant his teachings. He refused.

Relic

Relics are objects that people honor (and worship!) as having some association with a famous person in the past. During Luther's time, the church told people that if they paid money to see a relic, that would reduce the time of their suffering in purgatory.

Important Cities

in chronological order of events

Eisleben, Germany – the city where Luther was born (Nov 10, 1483) and died (Feb 18, 1546)

Erfurt, Germany – University town where Luther began to study to become a lawyer (1501)
joined the Augustinian monastery (1505)
studied theology and became a Catholic priest (1507)

Rome, Italy – headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church, where Luther visited (1510) and became disgusted over relics, indulgences, and corruption of church leaders.

Wittenberg, Germany (1511) – University & church where Luther taught theology and began the Reformation (1517).

Leipzig, Germany (1519) – where Luther debated Johann Eck.

Worms, Germany (1521) – where Emperor Charles V condemned Luther to death as a heretic.

Wartburg Castle – where Luther hid for 10 months, translating the New Testament into the German language.

Speyer, Germany (1529) – where German princes told Emperor Charles that they refused to enforce the Edict of Worms. They presented their own articles of protest, in favor of religious freedom in Germany (where we get the name "Protestant.")

Marburg, Germany (1529) – where Luther and Zwingli met to discuss their common purpose and their differences.

Augsburg, Germany (1530) – where the German princes presented to Emperor Charles the Augsburg Confession.

Coburg Castle – (1530) – where Martin Luther stayed for safety during the Diet of Augsburg.

Schmalkalden, Germany (1537) – where German princes formed a military alliance (Schmalkalden League) to defend Germany against possible attack from Emperor Charles. Duke John Frederick also asked Luther and the theologians to present a confession of faith on points of controversy with the Catholic Church. Luther wrote the *Smalcald Articles*. He became too sick to go to Schmalkalden. Melancthon wrote *Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope*. Both documents are now part of the *Book of Concord*. (One year after Luther's death, Emperor Charles' army defeated the Schmalkalden League in the Battle of Mühlberg, 1547.)

Trent, Italy -- where Roman Catholic theologians and officials held an official council to clarify Catholic doctrine and policies against Protestantism. The Council of Trent began meeting in 1545, continuing for 25 sessions, until 1563.

Chronology

1483, Nov 10	Luther born in Eisleben, Germany. Six months later, Luther family moves to Mansfield, Germany.
1501	Luther enrolls in the University of Erfurt. He earns a Bachelor of Arts degree (1502) and Master of Arts degree (1505)
1505, May	Luther begins studies in law.
1505, July	Luther quits the university and enters the Augustinian monastery in Erfurt.
1507, May	Luther’s ordination and first Mass.
1508, winter	Luther is a guest lecturer of “moral philosophy” at the University of Wittenberg.
1510, Nov	Fr. Staupitz sends Luther to Rome.
1511, April	Luther returns to Erfurt from Rome; Staupitz sends him to Wittenberg to teach.
1512, Oct	Luther is made a Doctor of Theology by the University.
1517, Oct 31	Luther writes and posts his <i>Ninety-five Theses</i> .
1518, April 26	Luther presents 28 Theses at the Augustinian <i>Heidelberg Disputation</i> , in which he contrasts “theology of the cross” vs “theology of glory.”
1518, Oct 12-14	Luther meets with Cardinal Cajetan in Augsburg, Germany
1519, June 28	Charles V (Charles I of Spain) elected Holy Roman Emperor.
1519, July 4-14	Luther and Eck debate in Leipzig, Germany.
1520	Pope Leo X issues Papal Bull against Luther: <i>Exsurge, Domine</i> . Luther writes: <i>On the Papacy at Rome</i> <i>Address to the Christian Nobility</i> <i>The Babylonian Captivity of the Church</i> <i>On the Freedom of a Christian</i>
1521, April	Luther refuses to recant at the Diet of Worms .
1521, April – 1522, March	Luther hides in the Wartburg Castle; writes <i>On Confession: Whether the Pope Has the Authority to Require It</i> <i>On the Abolition of Private Mass: On Monastic Vows</i> <i>An Admonition to All Christians to Guard Themselves against Insurrection</i> <i>The New Testament German translation</i> December 1521: Luther makes a brief visit to Wittenberg in disguise as “Knight George.” Pope Leo X dies.
1522	Luther returns to Wittenberg, expels Karlstadt as a radical insurrectionist, publishes the German <i>New Testament</i> .
1523-1524	Luther publishes <i>On Temporal Authority: the Extent to which It Should be obeyed</i> <i>To the Municipalities of Germany... on Founding Schools</i>
1525	Duke Frederick the Wise dies, succeeded by his brother Duke John. Luther marries Katharina von Bora. Luther write <i>On the Bondage of the Will</i> . The peasant war. (Luther writes opposing the peasant rebellion; the German princes put down the revolt with bloody brutality.)
1526	Luther writes the <i>German Mass and Order for Public Worship</i> .
1527	Luther suffers physical illness and serious depression. Luther composes hymn <i>A Mighty Fortress is Our God</i> .
1528	Luther and his team visit churches through Saxony. He is shocked by what he found.

The Life of Martin Luther
Study Guide – Appendix

1529	<p>In response to his church visits in 1528, Luther writes <i>The Small Catechism</i> <i>The Large Catechism</i></p> <p>April – Diet of Speyer. German princes tell Emperor Charles that they refused to enforce the Edict of Worms. They present their own articles of protest, in favor of religious freedom in Germany (where we get the name "Protestant.")</p> <p>October – Luther meets with Swiss reformer Ulrich Zwingli at Marburg, Germany. Their most notable difference is their understanding of the Lord’s Supper.</p> <p>English reformer William Tyndale publishes his English translation of the New Testament (printed in Germany; smuggled back into England).</p>
1530	<p>June 25 -- German princes sign and present Melanchthon’s <i>Augsburg Confession</i> to Emperor Charles V at the Diet of Augsburg. Luther obeys Duke John’s order to not attend and stay at Coburg.</p> <p>July 12 -- Catholic theologians present their <i>Confutation</i> against the Augsburg Confession.</p> <p>September – Melanchthon writes his <i>Apology [defense] of the Augsburg Confession.</i> Emperor Charles refuses to hear it.</p>
1531	<p>Melanchthon, with input of Luther and others, revises and publishes the <i>Apology of the Augsburg Confession.</i></p> <p>Swiss reformer Ulrich Zwingli is killed in battle.</p>
1532	<p>Duke John dies; succeeded by his son John Frederick.</p> <p>King Henry VIII of England begins his break from the Catholic Church because the Pope refused Henry's request for an annulment from his marriage to Queen Catherine of Aragon (the aunt of Emperor Charles the V).</p>
1534	<p>Luther’s German translation of the complete Bible is published.</p>
1535 - 1536	<p>English reformer William Tyndale is arrested and executed for "treason and heresy" before he is able to complete his English translation of the Old Testament. His friend Myles Coverdale finishes and publishes Tyndale's English translation of the complete Bible.</p>
1537	<p>Schmalkald League of German princes meets; Luther is too sick to attend, but offers his <i>Smalcald Articles.</i></p> <p>Melanchthon writes <i>Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope.</i></p>
1539	<p>Catholic “Counter Reformation” – Ignatius Loyola establishes the Society of Jesus (“Jesuits”) as a missionary and education ministry to counteract the Protestant Reformation. Pope Paul III recognizes the Jesuits in 1540.</p>
1545, Dec	<p>The Catholic Council of Trent begins, which continues for 25 sessions until 1563. Luther travels to Eisleben to help negotiate a family quarrel among the princes of Mansfield.</p>
1546	<p>Feb 16 – Luther dies (age 62) in Eisleben.</p> <p>Feb 22 – Luther’s body is interred in the Castle Church in Wittenberg.</p>
1547	<p>Emperor Charles' army defeated the Schamalkald League in the Battle of Mühlberg and enforces of the 1521 Edict of Worms.</p> <p>Melanchthon gives in to Catholic pressure to compromise his Evangelical faith.</p>
1555	<p>Emperor Charles V resigns and retires to a monastery.</p>
1560, April 19	<p>Philip Melanchthon dies. Controversy continues between followers of Luther (“Genesio [Genuine] Lutherans”), followers of Melanchthon (“Philippists”) and “Crypto-Calvinists.”</p>
1564, May 27	<p>Swiss reformer John Calvin dies.</p>

1573 – 1580	Theologians Jakob Andreae, Martin Chemnitz, David Chytraeus, and others work together to reunite German Christians in their commitment to the <i>Augsburg Confession</i> and Lutheran doctrine. The result of their work is the <i>Formula of Concord (1577)</i> . They also compile Reformation confessions of faith into the <i>Book of Concord (1580)</i> .
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Contents of the Book of Concord

The Ecumenical Creeds

 The Apostles' Creed

 The Nicene Creed

 The Athanasian Creed

The Augsburg Confession

The Apology [Defense] of the Augsburg Confession

The Smalcald Articles

The Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope

Luther's Small Catechism

Luther's Large Catechism

The Formula of Concord

 Epitome [Summary]

 Solid Declaration

Ninety-five Theses

Dr. Martin Luther

October 31, 1517

University of Wittenberg, Germany

1. When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, “Repent” [Mt 4:17], he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.
2. This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is, confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy.
3. Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortification of the flesh.
4. The penalty of sin remains as long as the hatred of self (that is, true inner repentance), namely till our entrance into the kingdom of heaven.
5. The pope neither desires nor is able to remit any penalties except those imposed by his own authority or that of the canons.
6. The pope cannot remit any guilt, except by declaring and showing that it has been remitted by God; or, to be sure, by remitting guilt in cases reserved to his judgment. If his right to grant remission in these cases were disregarded, the guilt would certainly remain unforgiven.
7. God remits guilt to no one unless at the same time he humbles him in all things and makes him submissive to his vicar, the priest.
8. The penitential canons are imposed only on the living, and, according to the canons themselves, nothing should be imposed on the dying.
9. Therefore the Holy Spirit through the pope is kind to us insofar as the pope in his decrees always makes exception of the article of death and of necessity.
10. Those priests act ignorantly and wickedly who, in the case of the dying, reserve canonical penalties for purgatory.
11. Those tares of changing the canonical penalty to the penalty of purgatory were evidently sown while the bishops slept [Mt 13:25].
12. In former times canonical penalties were imposed, not after, but before absolution, as tests of true contrition.
13. The dying are freed by death from all penalties, are already dead as far as the canon laws are concerned, and have a right to be released from them.
14. Imperfect piety or love on the part of the dying person necessarily brings with it great fear; and the smaller the love, the greater the fear.
15. This fear or horror is sufficient in itself, to say nothing of other things, to constitute the penalty of purgatory, since it is very near the horror of despair.
16. Hell, purgatory, and heaven seem to differ the same as despair, fear, and assurance of salvation.
17. It seems as though for the souls in purgatory fear should necessarily decrease and love increase.
18. Furthermore, it does not seem proved, either by reason of Scripture, that souls in purgatory are outside the state of merit, that is, unable to grow in love.
19. Nor does it seem proved that souls in purgatory, at least not all of them, are certain and assured of their own salvation, even if we ourselves may be entirely certain of it.

20. Therefore the pope, when he uses the words “plenary remission of all penalties,” does not actually mean “all penalties,” but only those imposed by himself.
21. Thus those indulgence preachers are in error who say that a man is absolved from every penalty and saved by papal indulgences.
22. As a matter of fact, the pope remits to souls in purgatory no penalty which, according to canon law, they should have paid in this life.
23. If remission of all penalties whatsoever could be granted to anyone at all, certainly it would be granted only to the most perfect, that is, to very few.
24. For this reason most people are necessarily deceived by that indiscriminate and high-sounding promise of release from penalty.
25. That power which the pope has in general over purgatory corresponds to the power which any bishop or curate has in a particular way in his own diocese or parish.
26. The pope does very well when he grants remission to souls in purgatory, not by the power of the keys, which he does not have, but by way of intercession for them.
27. They preach only human doctrines who say that as soon as the money clinks into the money chest, the soul flies out of purgatory.
28. It is certain that when money clinks in the money chest, greed and avarice can be increased; but when the church intercedes, the result is in the hands of God alone.
29. Who knows whether all souls in purgatory wish to be redeemed, since we have exceptions in St. Severinus and St. Paschal, as related in a legend.
30. No one is sure of the integrity of his own contrition, much less of having received plenary remission.
31. The man who actually buys indulgences is as rare as he who is really penitent; indeed, he is exceedingly rare.
32. Those who believe that they can be certain of their salvation because they have indulgence letters will be eternally damned, together with their teachers.
33. Men must especially be on their guard against those who say that the pope's pardons are that inestimable gift of God by which man is reconciled to him.
34. For the graces of indulgences are concerned only with the penalties of sacramental satisfaction established by man.
35. They who teach that contrition is not necessary on the part of those who intend to buy souls out of purgatory or to buy confessional privileges preach unchristian doctrine.
36. Any truly repentant Christian has a right to full remission of penalty and guilt, even without indulgence letters.
37. Any true Christian, whether living or dead, participates in all the blessings of Christ and the church; and this is granted him by God, even without indulgence letters.
38. Nevertheless, papal remission and blessing are by no means to be disregarded, for they are, as I have said [Thesis 6], the proclamation of the divine remission.
39. It is very difficult, even for the most learned theologians, at one and the same time to commend to the people the bounty of indulgences and the need of true contrition.

40. A Christian who is truly contrite seeks and loves to pay penalties for his sins; the bounty of indulgences, however, relaxes penalties and causes men to hate them—at least it furnishes occasion for hating them.
41. Papal indulgences must be preached with caution, lest people erroneously think that they are preferable to other good works of love.
42. Christians are to be taught that the pope does not intend that the buying of indulgences should in any way be compared with works of mercy.
43. Christians are to be taught that he who gives to the poor or lends to the needy does a better deed than he who buys indulgences.
44. Because love grows by works of love, man thereby becomes better. Man does not, however, become better by means of indulgences but is merely freed from penalties.
45. Christians are to be taught that he who sees a needy man and passes him by, yet gives his money for indulgences, does not buy papal indulgences but God's wrath.
46. Christians are to be taught that, unless they have more than they need, they must reserve enough for their family needs and by no means squander it on indulgences.
47. Christians are to be taught that the buying of indulgences is a matter of free choice, not commanded.
48. Christians are to be taught that the pope, in granting indulgences, needs and thus desires their devout prayer more than their money.
49. Christians are to be taught that papal indulgences are useful only if they do not put their trust in them, but very harmful if they lose their fear of God because of them.
50. Christians are to be taught that if the pope knew the exactions of the indulgence preachers, he would rather that the basilica of St. Peter were burned to ashes than built up with the skin, flesh, and bones of his sheep.
51. Christians are to be taught that the pope would and should wish to give of his own money, even though he had to sell the basilica of St. Peter, to many of those from whom certain hawkers of indulgences cajole money.
52. It is vain to trust in salvation by indulgence letters, even though the indulgence commissary, or even the pope, were to offer his soul as security.
53. They are enemies of Christ and the pope who forbid altogether the preaching of the Word of God in some churches in order that indulgences may be preached in others.
54. Injury is done the Word of God when, in the same sermon, an equal or larger amount of time is devoted to indulgences than to the Word.
55. It is certainly the pope's sentiment that if indulgences, which are a very insignificant thing, are celebrated with one bell, one procession, and one ceremony, then the gospel, which is the very greatest thing, should be preached with a hundred bells, a hundred processions, a hundred ceremonies.
56. The true treasures of the church, out of which the pope distributes indulgences, are not sufficiently discussed or known among the people of Christ.
57. That indulgences are not temporal treasures is certainly clear, for many indulgence sellers do not distribute them freely but only gather them.
58. Nor are they the merits of Christ and the saints, for, even without the pope, the latter always work grace for the inner man, and the cross, death, and hell for the outer man.

59. St. Lawrence said that the poor of the church were the treasures of the church, but he spoke according to the usage of the word in his own time.
60. Without want of consideration we say that the keys of the church, given by the merits of Christ, are that treasure.
61. For it is clear that the pope's power is of itself sufficient for the remission of penalties and cases reserved by himself.
62. The true treasure of the church is the most holy gospel of the glory and grace of God.
63. But this treasure is naturally most odious, for it makes the first to be last [Mt 20:16].
64. On the other hand, the treasure of indulgences is naturally most acceptable, for it makes the last to be first.
65. Therefore the treasures of the gospel are nets with which one formerly fished for men of wealth.
66. The treasures of indulgences are nets with which one now fishes for the wealth of men.
67. The indulgences which the demagogues acclaim as the greatest graces are actually understood to be such only insofar as they promote gain.
68. They are nevertheless in truth the most insignificant graces when compared with the grace of God and the piety of the cross.
69. Bishops and curates are bound to admit the commissaries of papal indulgences with all reverence.
70. But they are much more bound to strain their eyes and ears lest these men preach their own dreams instead of what the pope has commissioned.
71. Let him who speaks against the truth concerning papal indulgences be anathema and accursed.
72. But let him who guards against the lust and license of the indulgence preachers be blessed.
73. Just as the pope justly thunders against those who by any means whatever contrive harm to the sale of indulgences,
74. Much more does he intend to thunder against those who use indulgences as a pretext to contrive harm to holy love and truth.
75. To consider papal indulgences so great that they could absolve a man even if he had done the impossible and had violated the mother of God is madness.
76. We say on the contrary that papal indulgences cannot remove the very least of venial sins as far as guilt is concerned.
77. To say that even St. Peter if he were now pope, could not grant greater graces is blasphemy against St. Peter and the pope.
78. We say on the contrary that even the present pope, or any pope whatsoever, has greater graces at his disposal, that is, the gospel, spiritual powers, gifts of healing, etc., as it is written 1 Co 12[:28].
79. To say that the cross emblazoned with the papal coat of arms, and set up by the indulgence preachers, is equal in worth to the cross of Christ is blasphemy.
80. The bishops, curates, and theologians who permit such talk to be spread among the people will have to answer for this.
81. This unbridled preaching of indulgences makes it difficult even for learned men to rescue the reverence which is due the pope from slander or from the shrewd questions of the laity,

82. Such as: "Why does not the pope empty purgatory for the sake of holy love and the dire need of the souls that are there if he redeems an infinite number of souls for the sake of miserable money with which to build a church? The former reason would be most just; the latter is most trivial."
83. Again, "Why are funeral and anniversary masses for the dead continued and why does he not return or permit the withdrawal of the endowments founded for them, since it is wrong to pray for the redeemed?"
84. Again, "What is this new piety of God and the pope that for a consideration of money they permit a man who is impious and their enemy to buy out of purgatory the pious soul of a friend of God and do not rather, because of the need of that pious and beloved soul, free it for pure love's sake?"
85. Again, "Why are the penitential canons, long since abrogated and dead in actual fact and through disuse, now satisfied by the granting of indulgences as though they were still alive and in force?"
86. Again, "Why does not the pope, whose wealth is today greater than the wealth of the richest Crassus, build this one basilica of St. Peter with his own money rather than with the money of poor believers?"
87. Again, "What does the pope remit or grant to those who by perfect contrition already have a right to full remission and blessings?"
88. Again, "What greater blessing could come to the church than if the pope were to bestow these remissions and blessings on every believer a hundred times a day, as he now does but once?"
89. "Since the pope seeks the salvation of souls rather than money by his indulgences, why does he suspend the indulgences and pardons previously granted when they have equal efficacy?"
90. To repress these very sharp arguments of the laity by force alone, and not to resolve them by giving reasons, is to expose the church and the pope to the ridicule of their enemies and to make Christians unhappy.
91. If, therefore, indulgences were preached according to the spirit and intention of the pope, all these doubts would be readily resolved. Indeed, they would not exist.
92. Away, then, with all those prophets who say to the people of Christ, "Peace, peace," and there is no peace! [Jer 6:14]
93. Blessed be all those prophets who say to the people of Christ, "Cross, cross," and there is no cross!
94. Christians should be exhorted to be diligent in following Christ, their Head, through penalties, death and hell,
95. And thus be confident of entering into heaven through many tribulations rather than through the false security of peace [Acts 14:22].

Martin Luther's 95 Theses with the Pertinent Documents from the History of the Reformation, ed. K. Aland, various translators (St. Louis, 1967).

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