

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER



MARTIN LUTHER

BRIEF HISTORY AND QUIZ

Study this brief history about Martin Luther and the Lutheran Reformation and see how many quiz questions you can answer correctly!

THE STORY OF THE LUTHERAN REFORMATION

God's great gift is his Word. Throughout its history the Christian church has had to struggle to proclaim and teach the truth of God's Word. Toward the end of the Middle Ages (in the 15th and 16th centuries), serious false teachings and abuses had developed in the church. God in his grace chose Martin Luther to be his servant for a most important work: the reformation of the church.

Luther rediscovered for himself, and once again proclaimed simply, clearly, three great truths:

1. Salvation is God's gift to us in Jesus.
2. We are saved by grace, for Jesus' sake, through faith.
3. We can be sure of this because God's Word –God's Word alone– can guide us truly in all matters of faith.

Other Christians helped and encouraged Luther in this struggle. Through the preaching of the Gospel, the Lutheran reformation spread widely, and Lutheran churches were formed in many countries.

THE STORY OF THE LUTHERAN REFORMATION IS SET OUT IN THE FOLLOWING TIME-LINE:

- 1483** Luther born at Eisleben, Germany
- 1501** Luther a student at Erfurt University
- 1505** Luther is almost struck by lightning, makes a deal with God and enters the Erfurt monastery
- 1511** Luther a teacher at Wittenberg University
- 1516** Tetzel arrives in Germany selling indulgences (buying forgiveness of sins)
- 1517** Luther nails his 95 Theses in Wittenberg marking the beginning of the Reformation
- 1520** Important writings by Luther; the Reformation spreads rapidly
- 1521** Luther stands firm on God's Word at Worms

- 1522** Luther, hidden in Wartburg Castle, translates the New Testament. Luther returns to Wittenberg; to a busy life of writing, preaching, counselling, and bringing reform to church life
- 1525** Luther marries Katherine
The Reformation spreads widely through Europe
- 1529** Luther's writes the *Small Catechism* and *Large Catechism*
- 1530-1531** The *Augsburg Confession* and its *Apology* are written
- 1546** Luther dies at Eisleben. Many troubles for Lutherans: war, divisions over doctrine
- 1577** The *Formula of Concord* brings peace and unity
- 1580** The Lutheran Confessions gather into the *Book of Concord*

QUIZ

MARTIN LUTHER AND THE LUTHERAN REFORMATION

- 1. Where was Martin Luther born?**
 - (A) Eisleben, Germany
 - (B) Eisdorf, Germany
 - (C) Enfield, England
 - (D) Hanhdorf, Australia
- 2. Luther decided to become a monk when?**
 - (A) He saw a group of monks and liked their cool hair
 - (B) Monk recruiters promised him a scholarship at a private school
 - (C) His girlfriend became a nun and he wanted to live in the monastery across the street
 - (D) He almost got zapped by lightning and thought God was out to get him
- 3. An indulgence was a document from the Pope guaranteeing what?**
 - (A) Forgiveness of sins you have already committed
 - (B) Forgiveness of sins you might one day commit
 - (C) Forgiveness of sins for your dear departed relatives in purgatory
 - (D) All of the above and a rather clever fundraising idea
- 4. Luther responded to the selling of indulgences by nailing 95 Theses (statements against them) to the Castle Church door on October, 31, 1517. Luther hoped his 95 Theses would:**
 - (A) Create a Protestant Reformation
 - (B) Create a debate between scholars about unbiblical practices
 - (C) Create a name for himself and a big publishing contract
 - (D) Create the Lutheran Church

5. **Luther expected his Theses to be debated by scholars, but instead:**
- (A) Students copied them and put them up on Facebook
 - (B) Students copied, translated and spread them all over Europe
 - (C) The president of Wittenberg University told him to resign
 - (D) Only a couple of people read them as they walked by the church
6. **When Rome heard a German monk was calling into question the Pope's indulgences**
- (A) The Pope repented and invited Luther to Sicily for a holiday
 - (B) The Pope sent a cardinal and professor to tell Luther to shape up
 - (C) The Pope kicked Luther out of the Catholic Church
 - (D) Both B and C
7. **The "Diet of Worms" was:**
- (A) The trial where Luther denied his writings
 - (B) The trial where Luther refused to deny (recant) his writings
 - (C) A protein supplement paste used to make hot dishes in Germany
 - (D) The trial where Luther had to eat worms
8. **While laying low hiding from the Pope's assassination squad at Wartburg in 1521 Luther:**
- (A) Dressed up like a knight
 - (B) Changed his name to Junker (Knight) George
 - (C) Did a lot of rabbit hunting
 - (D) All of the above, plus translated the New Testament into German so common people could read it for themselves
9. **Martin Luther wrote the Small Catechism for:**
- (A) Parents to teach their children in the home
 - (B) Professors to teach their students at the seminary
 - (C) Popes to teach their cardinals in Rome
 - (D) Pastors to teach confirmation students
10. **Which of the following is NOT a direct by-product of Luther's Reformation?**
- (A) People receiving bread and wine at communion,
 - (B) Church music sung to popular tunes,
 - (C) Bibles translated into every major language in the world
 - (D) Communion wafers that taste like cardboard.

ANSWERS

1 A | 2 D | 3 D | 4 B | 5 B | 6 D | 7 B | 8 D | 9 A | 10 D