

Study Guide

Martin Luther and the Reformation



Congregational
Assistant Program

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Introduction: Prologue to Reformation

Read the Introduction in your book. Then answer the following questions.

1. When did Christianity become a legal religion and what were some good and bad results of this?

2. What factors helped the bishop of Rome become “the Pope”?

3. How did each of the following happen?
 - a. Monks become common in the church –

 - b. Literacy and education become rare –

 - c. Church leaders become corrupt –

 - d. Superstition and pagan ideas enter the church –

4. How did the following help prepare the way for a reformation?
 - a. The Renaissance –

 - b. The rise of universities –

Lesson 1: Luther's Early Life and Search (1483-1515)

Read Chapters 1-2 (pp. 10-23) in your book and watch the appropriate part of the video (beginning to 34:00). Then answer the following questions.

1. Describe briefly Luther's family and childhood atmosphere.
2. In what ways do you think his education prepared him for his future work?
3. What were some of the early religious influences on Luther?
4. Do you think Luther was "happy" as a child and young man?
5. In what year did the law student Luther enter a monastery and why?
6. What big event in Luther's life took place in 1507? Explain how this affected his life-calling as compared with becoming a monk.
7. What scenes in the movie indicate Luther was still not a man at peace with God?
8. What events in 1511 and 1512 added even more to Luther's calling on life?
9. What were the blessings and the frustrations Luther felt in serving Duke Frederick?
10. The textbook describes a "tower experience" for Luther. What was that and how is it or its results portrayed in the video?

Lesson 2: Conflict with Rome (1515-1521)

Read Chapter 3 (pp. 24-38) in your book and watch the video (34:00-1:21:30). Then answer the following questions.

1. Describe the following and tell how each contributed to Luther's sense that the church must be reformed:
 - a. Indulgences –
 - b. Relics –
 - c. John Tetzel –
 - d. Leo X –
 - e. Albert of Mainz –
2. What were the 95 Theses intended for, what did they discuss, and why did they cause such an uproar?
3. What was the result of the Leipzig Debate of 1519 according to the video? according to the textbook?
4. How did the German people now see Luther? What was Rome's reaction now to Luther? And how did Luther respond to Rome?
5. Tell how the following three writings of Luther were appropriately named and list one important point from each:
 - a. An Address to the German Nobility –
 - b. The Babylonian Captivity of the Church –
 - c. The Freedom of the Christian Man –
6. Answer the following questions about the Diet of Worms.
 - a. What is a Diet?
 - b. When did this Diet take place?
 - c. What question did Luther have to answer?
 - d. What was his answer?
 - e. What was the Emperor's decision about Luther?

Lesson 3: Rest, Rebellion and Family (1521-1525)

Read Chapters 4-5 (pp. 39-54) in your book and watch the appropriate part of the video (1:21:30-1:32:45). Then answer the following questions.

1. Why did Luther go to the Wartburg Castle and what did he do while he was there?

2. What was happening in Wittenberg while Luther was away?

3. Why did Luther return to Wittenberg and on what did he preach when he returned?

4. What was the *Peasants' War*, how did Luther get involved, and what was his opinion?

5. Describe Luther's marriage and family life. In what ways might it have made him a better pastor?

6. The following men greatly influenced Luther. Tell who each was, his relationship with Luther, and how they differed from him.
 - a. Staupitz –

 - b. Carlstadt –

 - c. Melancthon –

7. How would you explain Luther's attitude towards the Jews?

Lesson 4: Establishing the Churches and Taking a Final Stand (1524-1531)

Read Chapters 6-7 (pp. 55-68) in your book and watch the appropriate section of the video (1:32:45-1:47 [the end]). Then answer the following questions.

1. In 1528 a “church visitation” was made throughout Saxony.
 - a. What was its purpose?
 - b. What problems did Luther discover?
 - c. How were these problems solved?

2. What was decided at the Diet of Speyer in 1526?

3. What was decided at the Diet of Speyer in 1529?

4. What was the Marburg Colloquy, who participated, what was discussed, and what was the outcome?

5. Answer the following questions about the Diet of Augsburg in 1530.
 - a. Why was Luther not present?
 - b. Did Melanchton do a good job in his place?
 - c. What role did the German princes play?
 - d. June 25, 1530 is sometimes called the ‘birthday of the Lutheran Church.’ In what sense would that be appropriate?
 - e. What was the *Apology to the Augsburg Confession*?
 - f. What importance does the *Augsburg Confession* and the *Apology* have yet today?

Lesson 5: Conclusion and Summary (1530-1546)

Read pp. 69-70 in your book and answer the following questions.

1. People sometimes say that Lutherans have made Luther into a “saint.” Is that true? What is the importance of Luther for us today?

2. In what ways were Luther’s spiritual and earthly struggles typical of every Christian?

3. Describe briefly the situation and significance in the following acts and words of Luther as portrayed in the video.
 - a. He writes the word “alone” in the margin of Rom. 1:17 (video 32:00-34:00 ff) –

 - b. He tells Eck: “A simple layman armed with Scripture is greater than the mightiest Pope without it.” (video 1:00:00-1:02:00) –

 - c. He burns the papal bull (video 1:06:00-1:08:00) –

 - d. He tells the Emperor: “My conscience is captive to the Word of God.... Therefore I cannot and will not recant. Here I stand; I can do no other. God help me. Amen” (video 1:18:00-1:20:00) –

 - e. He says in a sermon: “When will you learn that even faith in itself is not enough without love.” (video 1:29:00-1:31:00) –