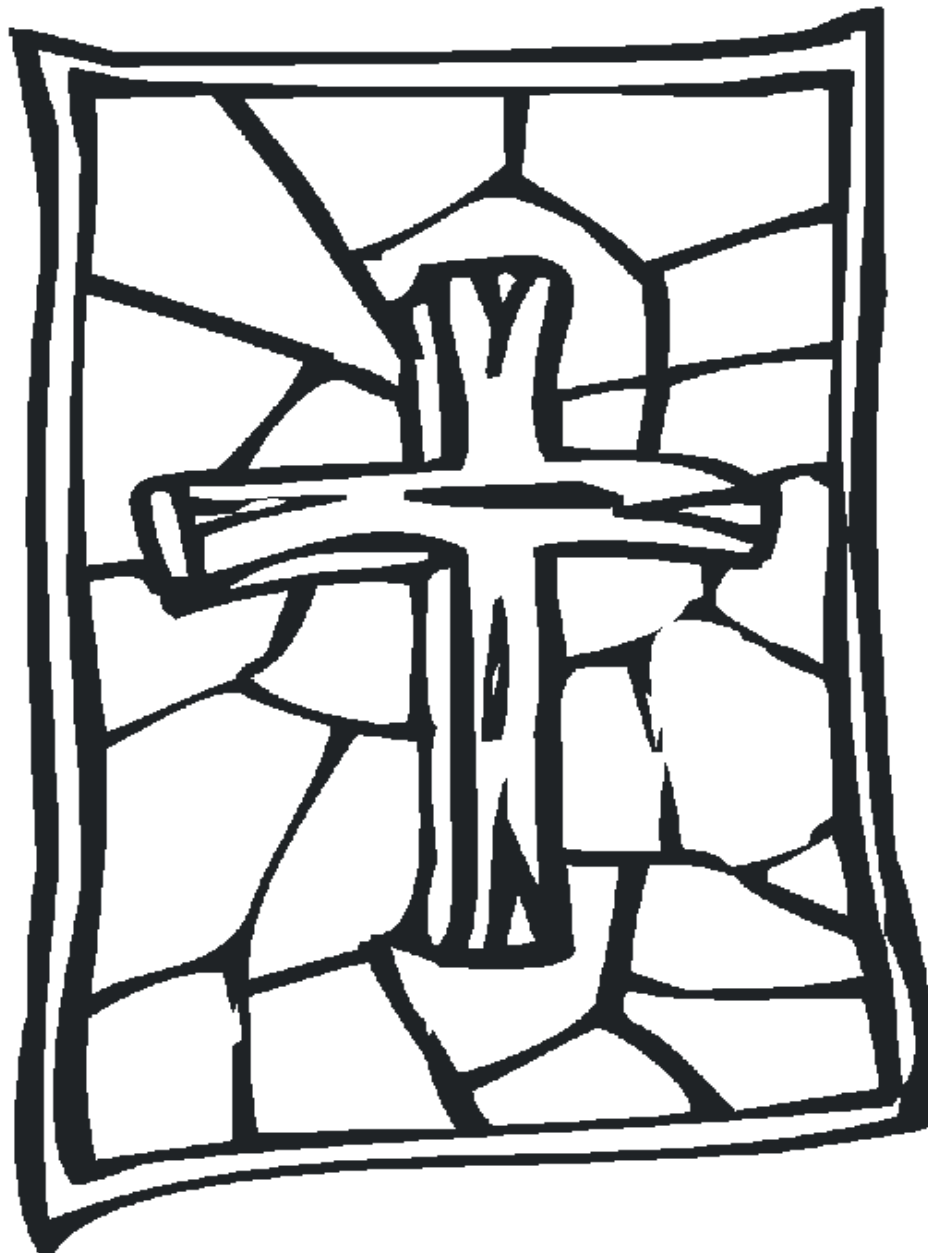


# Reformation

## Lesson 1

**Martin Luther read in God's Word that forgiveness of sins only comes through Jesus dying on the cross. Color the picture of the stained glass window cross.**



Color the stained glass cross above.



## The Story

A long time ago, about 500 years ago, in Germany, a country far away, a baby was born to Hans and Margareta Luther. They named their baby Martin Luther. They brought Martin Luther to church to be baptized. But their church was different from our church. Their church said that in order for your sins to be forgiven, you have to believe in Jesus **and** do good things, but this is not what the Bible says. The Luthers did not know this because there was no Bible for them to read. When the Luthers went to church, they could not understand what the pastor was saying because he was speaking in a different language.

Martin Luther went to school. As he got older, his dad wanted him to become a lawyer. When he was on his way home from school studying to be a lawyer, he was caught in a thunderstorm. A bolt of lightning almost hit Martin Luther. Instead of praying to Jesus for help, Martin Luther prayed to a lady who died a long time ago named St. Anna. Because he was afraid of dying, Martin Luther said that if she would keep him safe from the storm, he would become a monk. A monk was a person who lived in a special place away from his family, prayed, read the Bible, and promised never to marry or have lots of money. St. Anna did not keep Martin Luther safe; God kept Martin Luther safe from the storm because God had a special job for Martin Luther to do.

When Martin Luther was a monk, he felt sorry about all the bad sins he did. These sins bothered him so much, because Martin Luther thought that God was mad at him and would punish him. So Martin Luther tried to do good things in order to be forgiven. He worked hard and prayed. He slept on the floor and beat himself up hoping God would feel sorry for him and take his sins away. Then one day he read in the Bible that God forgives sins because Jesus died on the cross. Sins are not forgiven because people do good things. Now Martin Luther was happy his sins were forgiven because Jesus died to take them away. But this was not what the

church was teaching, so Martin Luther wanted to tell others the good news he found in the Bible.

God showed Martin Luther in the Bible that sins are forgiven because Jesus died on the cross for us. He washed them all away. Sins are not forgiven because people do good things.

## Passages

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9

“For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.’” Romans 1:17

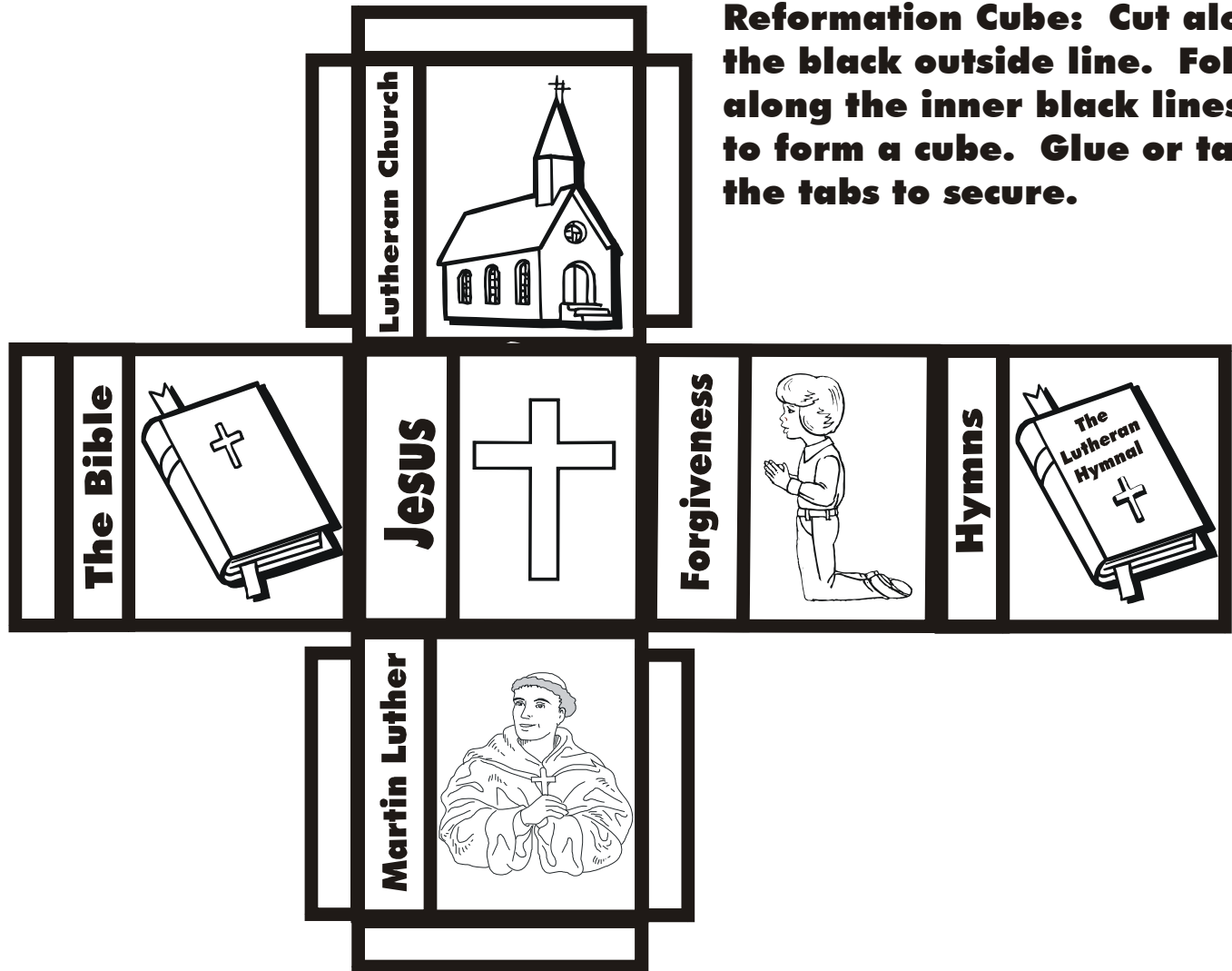
## Hymn Hymn 342, v. 1

Chief of sinners though I be,  
Jesus shed His blood for me;  
Died that I might live on high,  
Lived that I might never die.  
As the branch is to the vine,  
I am His, and He is mine.

## Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank You for loving me so much that You sent Jesus to die on the cross to forgive me of my sins. Let me remember to thank You each day for Your gift of forgiveness. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Activity One** - Color, cut out and fold the Reformation CUBE.



**Reformation Cube: Cut along the black outside line. Fold along the inner black lines to form a cube. Glue or tape the tabs to secure.**