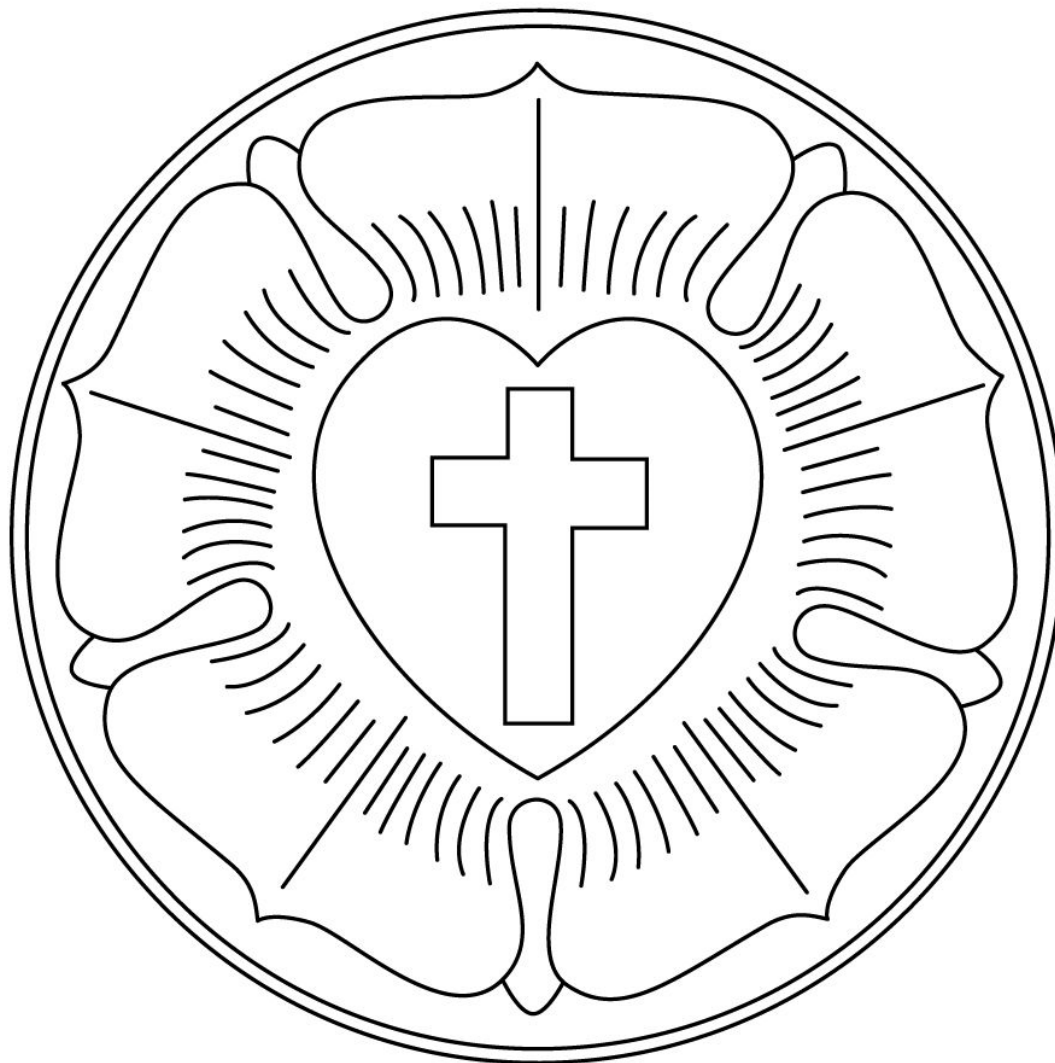


# Reformation

## Lesson 2



This is Martin Luther's seal. Martin Luther drew this picture to show how people are saved. Each picture in the seal shows us something about God's love and plan of salvation for us. Color the seal using the color key below. Read what each item in Martin Luther's seal means.

<b>Cross</b>	black	Christ's death on the cross forgives our sins.
<b>Heart</b>	red	Faith in Christ's death is found in the heart.
<b>Rose</b>	white	Faith in Jesus gives us peace, forgiveness, and joy.
<b>Background</b>	blue	Faith in Christ's death gives heaven.
<b>Ring</b>	gold	Life in heaven brings happiness and will be eternal.



## The Story

Martin Luther learned that God forgives sins because Jesus died for them. He wanted to tell others about this good news, but the church did not want him telling others. The church started selling special pieces of paper. They said if a person bought this paper his sins would be forgiven. This is not what Martin Luther read in the Bible. God's forgiveness is free for everyone. It cannot be sold. Martin Luther wanted to do something about this. He wrote down 95 things that were wrong with what the church was teaching. We call these the 95 Theses. He took them to the church door and nailed them on the door. This way everyone who came to the church could read that the church was not teaching what God says in the Bible. Martin Luther nailed these 95 Theses to the church door on October 31, 1517. This is the day we celebrate as Reformation Day.

How do you think the church felt about Luther doing this? They were upset. They wanted Luther to stop talking about God forgiving people because Jesus died for them. They did not want Luther to write these 95 Theses. They told Luther that if he did not stop, anyone could kill him. Martin Luther prayed to God for help. He said that he could not stop telling others about God's free forgiveness because this is what God says in the Bible.

Martin Luther's friends were worried that Martin Luther might die, so they kidnapped him. They took him to a castle where he would be safe. This castle was called the Wartburg. Martin Luther was busy in this castle. He wrote many papers to tell others about Jesus dying for their sins. He also translated the Bible into the German language. Remember how Martin Luther's parents did not have a Bible for them to read. That was because it was written in a different language. Martin Luther wrote the Bible in German so people like his parents could read it.

God protected Martin Luther. Eventually Martin Luther left the castle and got married. He

had six children. He kept writing and telling others about God's forgiveness because Jesus died for them. He also wrote songs called hymns. One of his most famous hymns is called "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." He also wrote books that fathers could read to their children. These books were called Catechisms, and they tell about the Bible.

God had a special plan for Martin Luther. God used Martin Luther to show the people how they can get to heaven. Martin Luther found in the Bible that people are saved only because Jesus died on the cross to take away their sins. No one can do good things in order to be saved because all people are sinful. God used Martin Luther to change what the church was teaching. That is why we celebrate Reformation Day on October 31. We praise God that He sent Jesus to die on the cross to forgive us. We also thank God that He used Martin Luther to find in the Bible the good news that our sins are forgiven because Jesus paid for them.

**God used Martin Luther to show people from the Bible that they are saved because God loved everyone so much that He sent Jesus to die on the cross.**

## Passages

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

## Hymn TLH -Hymn 262 v. 1

A mighty Fortress is our God,  
A trusty Shield and Weapon;  
He helps us free from every need  
That hath us now o'ertaken,  
The old evil Foe now means deadly woe;  
Deep guile and great might  
Are his dread arms in fight;  
On earth is not his equal. Amen.

## Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for using Martin Luther to show us that we are saved only because Jesus died on the cross to forgive our sins. Help us always remember to praise You and tell others the good news that Jesus died to forgive the sins of the world. Thank You, Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Activity One - Reformation Mobile

Directions: Color pieces. Cut out pieces along the black lines. Glue the two pieces together to make the top ring. With a hole puncher, punch six holes along the bottom of the top ring. Punch one whole in the top of each picture. Connect the pictures to the top ring with yarn.

