

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 in a country called Germany, Hans and Margareta Luther had a baby boy. They named him Martin Luther. God was going to use Martin Luther to do very important things for the church.

The church at Martin Luther's time was not teaching what God's Word said. The church said that if you wanted your sins taken away you have to do good things. That is not what God's Word says. God's Word says that our sins are forgiven because Jesus died on the cross. The church also said that people should pray to saints. Saints were dead people who believed in Jesus. God does not want us to pray to anyone except Him.

Martin Luther was taught to be afraid of God because God was going to punish him because of his sins. We should not be afraid of God. God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to die for us to take away our sins, but Martin Luther was not taught this.

One day when Martin Luther was on his way home, a thunderstorm came. Lightning struck a tree right next to him. Martin Luther was afraid he was going to die, so he prayed to Saint Anna. He should have prayed to God. He asked Saint Anne to keep him safe. If she would, he would become a monk. A monk is a person who lives away from his family and lives his whole life praying and working for God.

God kept Martin Luther safe from the storm, and Martin Luther became a monk. Martin Luther was still worried about his sins. He tried to do everything that was good. He prayed. He worked. He slept on the floor. The more he tried to be good, the more he knew how bad his sins were. A friend told Martin Luther to read the Bible. There Martin Luther read the wonderful news that his sins were forgiven because Jesus died on the cross. He did not have to do good things to pay for his sins.

God forgives our sins because Jesus died 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 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

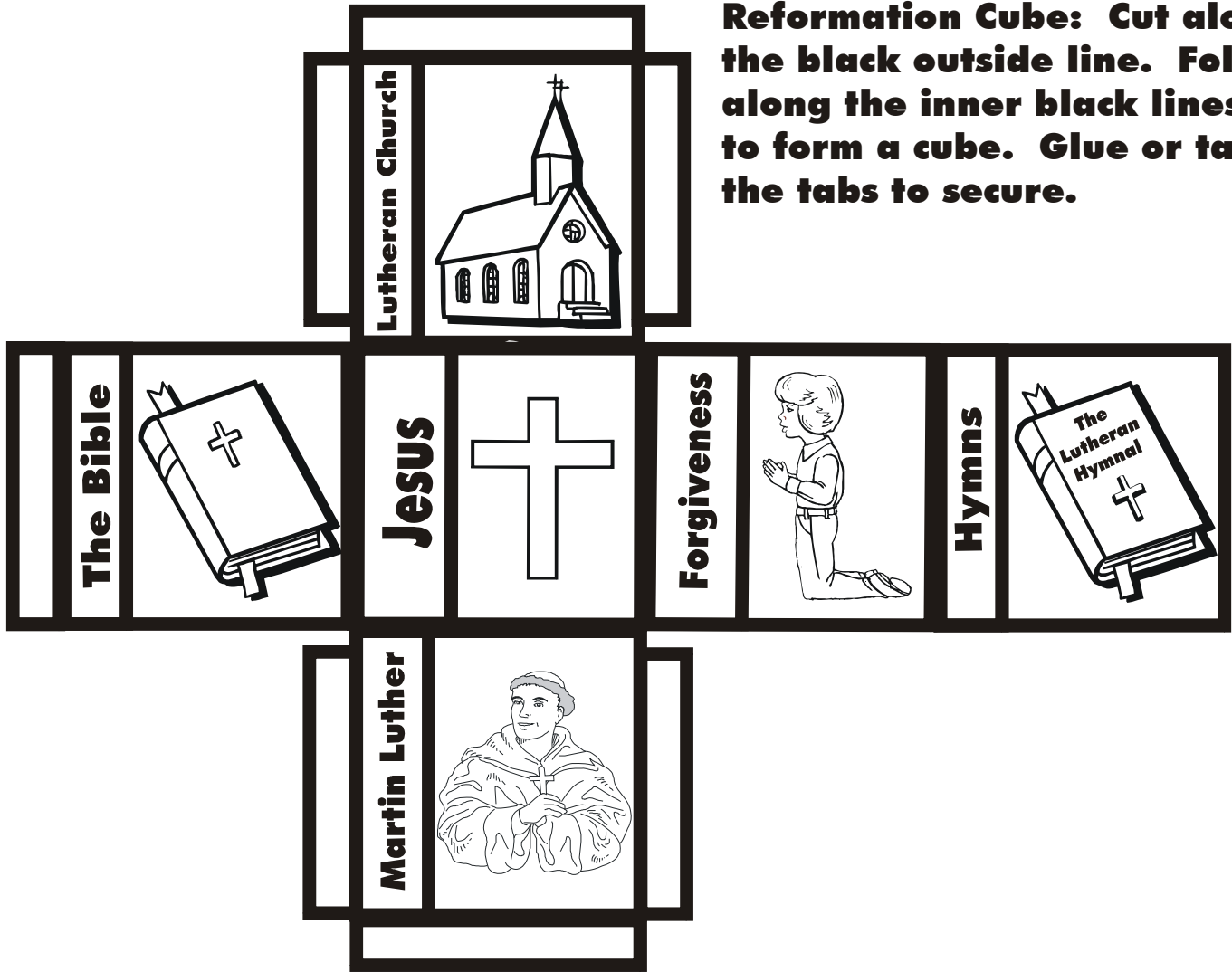
Hymn Hymn 342

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. Help 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.