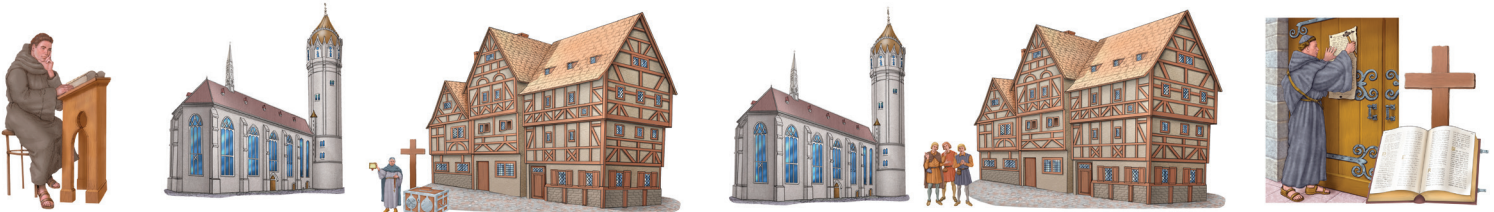


Reformation—Luther Posts Ninety-Five Theses on Castle Church Door

Figures to use in building scenes: 11 Luther Reading at Desk 6 Street Scene 19 Church 20 John Tetzel
21 Cross 22 Treasure Box 23 Luther Nailing Theses 17 Three Students 32 Bible

*Screen shots are provided to help with overall concept,
but are not always complete representations of the entire scene.*



Scene 1

Scene 2

Scene 3

Scene 4

Scene 1

(Place Luther Reading at Desk [11].) **Martin Luther studied and worked hard as a monk. After a while, he was made a pastor. Sometime later, he became a teacher in the University of Wittenberg and pastor of a church in that small city. Martin spent many hours reading and studying the Bible in order to prepare for his classes and sermons.** *(Clear screen for the next scene.)*

their sins forgiven. God even gives faith itself as a gift so people believe in Jesus. Martin decided to get some pastors and professors together to talk about these things. In days before good mail delivery and email, the best way to get these people together was to nail an announcement to the church door. So that is what Luther did. *(Clear screen for the next scene.)*

Scene 2

(Place Street Scene [6] on right, Church [19] on far left.) **One day, a stranger came to a town near Wittenberg.** *(Place John Tetzel [20] on the street.)* **The stranger put up a large cross.** *(Place Cross [21] in front of Street Scene.)* **He put down a big box.** *(Place Treasure Box [22] on other side of Tetzel.)* **Then he began to talk. This man was also a monk. His name was John Tetzel. He had been sent to this town to get money to build a big church in a city called Rome. Crowds of people gathered around him. John Tetzel waved some papers at the crowd and said, "If you buy these papers, you will have your sins forgiven." Many people thought this was an easy way to get rid of their sins, so they bought the papers. They put their money into the big box. When Martin Luther heard what John Tetzel was telling people, he became very angry. Martin knew from the Bible that God forgives our sins because Jesus died for us. He also knew that all who believe in Jesus have**

Scene 3

(Place Street Scene [6] on right and Church [19] on far left.) **On a large piece of paper, Luther wrote ninety-five statements and an invitation to others to talk about those ideas. Then, on October 31, 1517, Martin Luther walked to the church door in Wittenberg.** *(Point to church door.)* **In one hand, he carried the paper. In the other, he carried a hammer and some nails.** *(Remove Church [19], and place Luther Nailing Theses [23] in lower left corner.)* **Tap! tap! tap! went the hammer as Martin nailed his paper to the church door. Some students from the university saw Martin Luther nail the paper to the church door. After Martin went away** *(remove Luther [23] and replace Church [19] at top left),* **the students walked over to the door and read the paper.** *(Place Students [17] in center.)* **"Some of the sentences talk about the papers that John Tetzel is selling," they said to one another. The next morning, many people came to the church to worship on All Saints' Day. Some stopped to read the paper that was nailed to the door. There was much talk.**

People crowded around and asked, “What does it say?” One student answered, “Martin Luther has written against the papers that John Tetzel is selling. Luther says that in Christ, we already have God’s forgiveness. We don’t need to buy Tetzel’s papers to get rid of our sins.”

The paper that Martin Luther nailed to the church door in Wittenberg is often called the **Ninety-Five Theses**. *Theses* are sentences to debate. Each of these sentences said something that Martin believed to be true, and he wanted to make them clear to others.

(Clear screen for the next scene.)

Scene 4

(Place Luther [23], Cross [21], and Bible [32].) **Many Christians have never forgotten the day that Martin Luther first nailed the Ninety-Five Theses to the church door. In fact, they now give October 31 a special name. They call it Reformation Day. Reformation means “to change something by making it better.” Soon after Martin Luther wrote the Ninety-Five Theses, many people once again began to hear in their churches the things that Jesus said and did, and why they are important to us. They heard the true Word of God and learned that the only way to heaven is by God’s grace through faith in Jesus alone, who took away our sins by dying on the cross and then rising from the dead.**

After the Story

Discuss the story with the children. During the discussion, stress the importance of Christian vocation. Luther, in his vocation as preacher and professor, desired to faithfully preach and teach the Word of God. To guide the discussion, use questions like these:

- **Our story today told about a very important time in Martin Luther’s life. In what small city in Germany did the story happen?** (Wittenberg)

- **What kind of work did Martin Luther do in Wittenberg?** (He taught about the Bible at the university and was a pastor.)

- **Who was the stranger who came to a town near Wittenberg one day?** (John Tetzel)

- **What was John Tetzel selling?** (Papers for forgiveness, also called indulgences)

- **Why did people buy John Tetzel’s papers?** (They thought they were buying forgiveness of sins.)

- **Why was Martin Luther upset when he heard what John Tetzel was doing?** (He knew that God forgives sins because Jesus died for us. God gives us faith, takes our sins away, and makes us His children. John Tetzel said we can buy our forgiveness, which is not true.)

- **What did Martin Luther nail to the church door?** (A paper)

- **What did this paper have written on it?** (Ninety-five sentences, or theses)

- **What did some of these theses say?** (God has forgiven our sins in Jesus and gives His grace freely. We are saved by grace in the faith God gives us through the Holy Spirit; we cannot buy forgiveness.)

- **On what day of the year did Martin Luther nail the Ninety-Five Theses to the church door?** (October 31)

- **Some people call October 31 Halloween. Some also have another name for it. What is that other name?** (Reformation Day)

- **What does *reformation* mean?** (To change something by making it better)

- **What change took place in some churches after Reformation Day?** (People once again began to hear about Jesus as the only way to heaven.)

Note: The scene images work well for iPads, desktops, and interactive whiteboards.