

Reformation—Luther Becomes a Monk

Figures to use in building scenes: 2 Luther's Father 11 Luther Reading at Desk 12 Chain 13 Oak Tree
14 Luther the Student 15 Clouds 16 Lightning Bolt 17 Three Students 18 Monastery 32 Bible

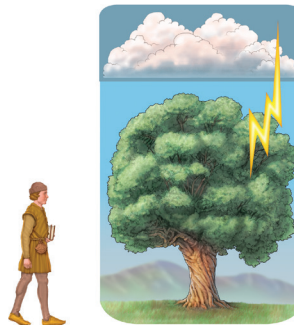
Screen shots are provided to help with overall concept, but are not always complete representations of the entire scene.



Scene 1



Scene 2



Scene 3



Scene 4

Scene 1

(Center Father [2] on the screen.) **Hans Luther, Martin's father, dug copper in the mines for many years. He worked hard and saved his money. When Hans had saved enough money, he bought one of the furnaces used for melting the copper. Now Hans was able to earn even more money—enough to send his son Martin to a university, where he could learn to be a lawyer. (Clear screen for the next scene.)**

Scene 2

(Place Luther Reading at Desk [11].) **Martin went to the university in the city of Erfurt, Germany. Here, Martin made many new friends. The students liked Martin because he was friendly, loved to sing with them, and studied hard. Martin liked to read. He spent many hours in the university library. Martin read many books. One of his favorites was the Bible. (Place Bible [32].)** Martin had seen his first Bible while he was in high school at Magdeburg. One day, he had come into the high school library and had noticed a big book chained to a reading desk. *(Place Chain [12] to book and desk.)* **Walking over to the desk, Martin discovered that the book was the Bible. Quickly, he began to page through the Bible. Suddenly, he stopped paging. "Look!" he said to himself excitedly, "Here's the story of Samuel and his mother, Hannah!"**

As he read the story, he noticed that Samuel was not afraid of God. Martin wondered about this because he was afraid of God. People in Martin's day thought that whenever something bad happened to them, God was punishing them for some sin they had done. People tried to do good things not because they loved God but because they were afraid of His anger. Sometimes, they even prayed to saints instead of praying directly to God. After that day in Magdeburg, Martin wanted to have a Bible of his own. Bibles were expensive, however; they cost too much for most families to buy. Even at the university, Martin did not have his own Bible. (Clear screen for the next scene.)

Scene 3

(Place Oak Tree [13] on far right of screen; place Luther the Student [14] on left.) **While Luther was studying law at the university, a very scary thing happened to him. After a visit home to his family, he was walking back to the university. As Martin walked along, a terrible thunderstorm came up. The wind whistled, and the sky grew dark. (Place Clouds [15] above Oak Tree.) The thunder roared, and lightning flashed across the sky. (Place Lightning Bolt [16] so that it points to Oak Tree.) Martin looked around for a place to hide. All he could find was an oak tree. (Point to Oak Tree.) He ran quickly to get under the tree. (Move Luther to Oak Tree.) Just then, lightning struck the tree (lay Luther down),**

and Martin fell to the ground. He was afraid. He thought that God was angry with him. He cried: "Help me, St. Anne! Save me, and I will become a monk!" *(Place Luther upright again.)*
Soon, the storm stopped. Martin started once more for Erfurt, shaken but unhurt. *(Clear screen for the next scene.)*

Scene 4

(Place Luther the Student [14] at left center.) **When Martin returned to the university at Erfurt** *(place Students [17] to right of Martin),* **he told his friends, "I promised to become a monk. I'm going to keep my promise."** **A monk is a man who leaves his family and friends and devotes his whole life to serving the church. He lives with other monks in a monastery and tries hard to do what he thinks God wants him to do.** *(Clear screen.)* **A few weeks later, Martin moved into a large monastery near Erfurt.** *(Place Monastery [18] in center of board.)* **Here, he lived in a little room and had much work to do. He studied, did chores, and spent many hours praying. All this was part of his training to be a humble servant of God. Martin often fasted; that means he went without food for a long time. When he prayed, Martin would often kneel all night on the floor of his room. Think how cold and stiff he must have become! And after a few months, how thin and pale! Why did Martin do all these things? He thought that if he did these things, God would not be angry with him. In this way, Martin hoped that he would have a better chance of getting to heaven. After a while, Martin found out how wrong he was to believe that anything he did could help him get to heaven.** *(Clear screen.)*

(Place Luther Reading at Desk [11].) **When Martin went to live in the monastery, the other monks gave him his first Bible. He studied his Bible almost every day. The more Martin read, the more he learned about Jesus and how He died on the cross for the sins of all. "Even for my sins," thought Martin Luther. He was beginning to understand that God loves us and that we do not have to be afraid of God.**

After the Story

Discuss the story with the children. During the discussion, stress the joy and confidence we have that Jesus died for our sins and that our good works are to serve our neighbor, not to earn eternal life. To guide the discussion, use questions like these:

- **Hans Luther had sent his son Martin to a university. What did he want Martin to become?** *(A lawyer)*
- **Why was Martin always afraid?** *(He thought God was always angry with him for his sins; he thought he hadn't done enough good things.)*
- **What happened one night as Martin was going back to the university?** *(A bad storm came up.)*
- **When afraid he might die in a thunderstorm, what promise did Martin make?** *(He promised to become a monk.)*
- **What is a monk?** *(A man who leaves his family and friends and devotes himself to the church)*
- **Where did Martin go to live when he became a monk?** *(A monastery)*
- **What were some things Martin did at the monastery?** *(He studied, did chores, fasted, and prayed.)*
- **What does it mean to fast?** *(To go without food for a time)*
- **Why did Martin do all these things?** *(He wanted to keep God from being angry with him.)*
- **What book did the monks give Martin?** *(A Bible)*
- **Why had Martin not owned a Bible before this?** *(Bibles cost too much.)*
- **As Martin read his Bible, what did he learn about God and about God's Son, Jesus?** *(He learned that Jesus had died for his sins, that God loved him, and that he did not have to be afraid of God.)*

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