

# Reformation—Luther at Wartburg Castle

<b>Figures to use in building scenes:</b>	25 Large Papal Bull	26 Book Bonfire	27 Luther	28 Books
24 Mini Papal Bull	29 Group of Men	30 Luther Translating Bible	31 Luther Preaching from Pulpit	21 Cross
32 Bible	33 Catechism	34 Hymns		

**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

After Martin Luther nailed his **Ninety-Five Theses** to the church door in Wittenberg, many people stopped buying John Tetzel's papers. This bothered the pope, the leader of the church, because he was not getting enough money to continue building the big new church in Rome. The pope became so angry with Martin Luther that he wrote him a special letter. (Place Large Papal Bull [25] on board.) The letter said, "Martin Luther, unless you take back everything you have said, I will put you out of the church!"

(Remove Large Papal Bull [25]; center Book Bonfire [26], and place Luther [27] to the left of Bonfire.) Martin received the pope's letter, but he did not take back what he had said. Instead, Martin had some young men build a bonfire. When the fire was burning brightly, Martin threw some books into it. (Place Books [28] on Bonfire.) These books taught wrong things about God and the way to heaven. He also threw the pope's letter into the fire. (Place Mini Papal Bull [24] on Bonfire.) Soon, the books and the letter were only ashes. (Clear screen for the next scene.)

## Scene 2

(Place Large Papal Bull [25] on screen.) Later, Martin Luther received another letter. This time, it was from the ruler of Germany, Emperor Charles V. The emperor ordered Martin to come to a big meeting. This meeting was called the **Diet of Worms** (pronounced "vorms").

A **diet** is a meeting, and **Worms** is the name of the city in Germany where the meeting was to be held.

Martin obeyed the emperor's order and went to the meeting in Worms. On one side of the room where the meeting was held sat the emperor, his officers, and the leaders of the church. (Remove Large Papal Bull [25] and place Group of Men [29] on right of board.) **Martin Luther stood boldly before these powerful men.** (Place Luther [27] to the left of Group of Men.) **The men told Martin, "Take back all that you have said and written." But Martin answered: "My conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. God help me. Amen."** (Clear screen for the next scene.)

## Scene 3

(Place Luther Translating Bible [30].) Now, Martin was in great danger. Emperor Charles and some of the church leaders wanted him killed. To protect Martin, friends secretly hid him in a castle. Here, he translated the **New Testament of the Bible into German.** **To translate** means "to write something in another language." Martin Luther took a Bible written in the Greek language and rewrote it in German, the language the people spoke in his country. Because Luther translated the Bible, many more people were able to read it for themselves. (Remove Luther Translating Bible.)

*(Place Luther Preaching from Pulpit [31].)* **Martin Luther stayed in the castle for about a year. Then, he left the castle and began preaching again. He returned to Wittenberg to tell the people what the Bible said. People came from many places to hear him preach. They even came from other countries. Luther often made trips to other towns and cities in Germany to teach other pastors how to preach and teach God's Word clearly. The people who agreed with Martin Luther's teachings about God were often called Lutherans. This is how the Lutheran Church got its name.** *(Clear screen for the next scene.)*

## Scene 4

*(Place Cross [21] on upper part of screen.)* **Through Martin Luther, God gave us many things for which we are thankful. The most important thing Martin Luther did was to make it clear that God loves us and that He sent Jesus to save us. God gives us faith to believe this, and He gives us forgiveness for all our sins. God calls us His children. Luther discovered in the Bible and taught that we do not have to pay to have our sins forgiven. We do not have to work our way into heaven. As Jesus said in the Bible, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life"** *(John 3:16).*

*(Place Bible [32] below Cross.)* **Martin Luther translated the Bible into German, the language of his people, so that they could read this Good News for themselves.** *(Place Catechism [33] to left of Bible.)* **Martin Luther also wrote something to help all people. It is called the Small Catechism. Martin wrote the Small Catechism so that everyone could learn more easily what the Bible teaches. We still use his Small Catechism today.** *(Place Hymns [34] to right of Bible.)* **Finally, Martin Luther wrote many hymns for people to sing. One of them shares the Good News the angel announced to the shepherds about Jesus' birth:**

**"From heav'n above to earth I come  
To bear good news to ev'ry home;  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,  
Whereof I now will say and sing:**

**To you this night is born a child  
Of Mary chosen virgin mild;  
This little child of lowly birth  
Shall be the joy of all the earth."**  
*(LSB 358:1-2)*

**One of Martin Luther's most famous hymns is often sung on Reformation Day. It is called "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (LSB 656) and teaches us that we trust in God alone for help against sin, death, and the devil.**

## After the Story

**Our story today showed that Martin Luther was a very brave man. Though he was afraid at times, he continued to write and speak what he knew was the truth. He was certain that God would take care of him. Martin studied the Bible all his life, trying to understand what God was saying to him in the Bible. And then, when Martin understood, he told others about the Good News he had found. He wrote many books, pamphlets, and sermons explaining what God's Word says.**

Discuss the story with the children. During the discussion, stress the importance of boldly proclaiming the Word of God, especially that Jesus died for our sins. To guide the discussion, use questions like the following:

- **Who did not like Martin Luther's Ninety-Five Theses? (The pope) Why? (Many people stopped buying Tetzel's papers, thereby slowing down work on building the new great church in Rome.)**
- **What did the pope's letter tell Martin to do? (Take back everything he had written)**
- **How did Martin answer the pope's letter? (He burned the letter in a bonfire.)**
- **What did Emperor Charles V order Martin to do? (The emperor ordered him to come to a meeting, or diet, in the city of Worms.)**
- **At this meeting, what did the leaders tell Martin to do? (Take back all he had said and written)**
- **Did Martin do what they said? (No)**

• **Why did Martin hide in a castle after the Diet of Worms?** *(His life was in danger; the emperor and church leaders wanted him killed.)*

• **What did Martin do while hiding in the castle?** *(He translated the New Testament from Greek into German.)*

• **Why are some Christians called Lutherans?** *(They believe Martin Luther taught Bible truths faithfully.)*

• **What is the most important thing that God helped Martin Luther do?** *(Through the working of the Holy Spirit, Martin Luther was led to believe and trust that God loves us, that He sent Jesus to save us, and that, when we believe this Gospel, we are God's children.)*

• **What are some other things that Martin did?** *(He translated the Bible, wrote the Catechism, and wrote hymns.)*

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

Scripture: ESV®. Hymn quotation: *Lutheran Service Book* © 2006 CPH.

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