

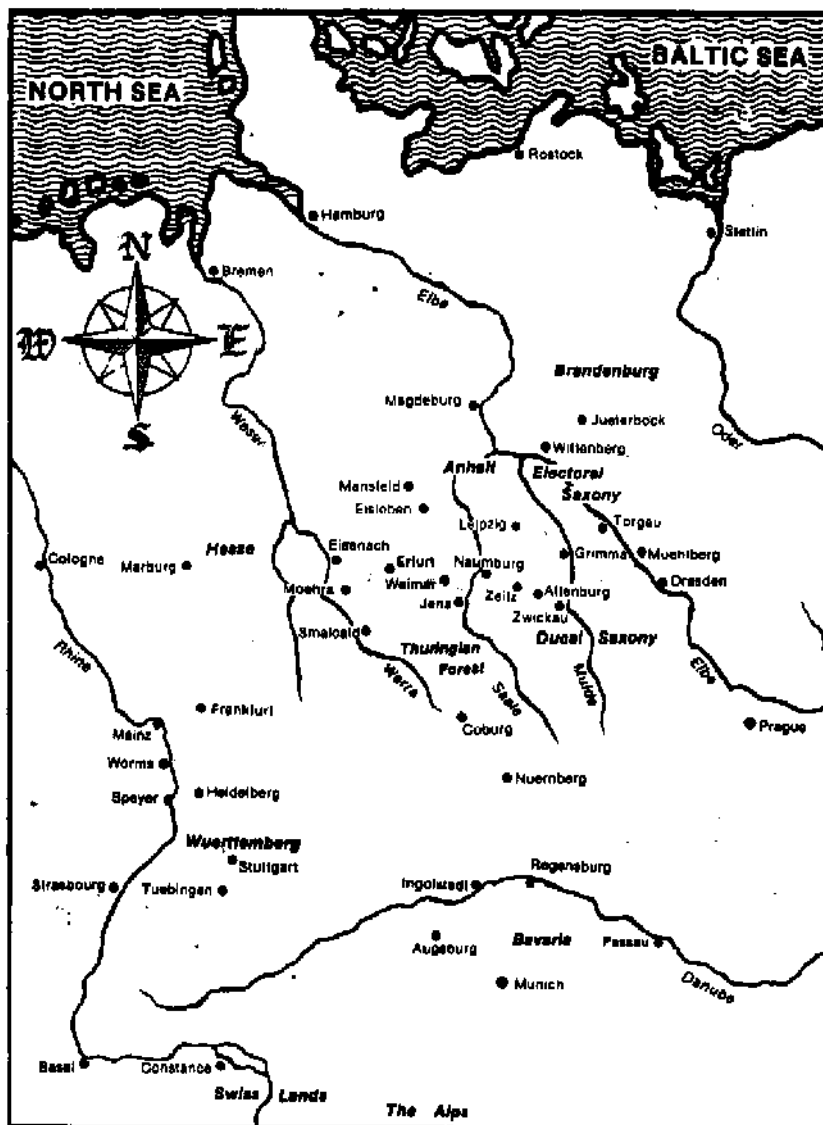


## YOUTH INSTRUCTION CLASS

### LESSON 4: MARTIN LUTHER AND THE REFORMATION - I

#### Review

What does the Law tell us? What does the Gospel tell us? Why is the Gospel so important? What does the Gospel do for us that the Law cannot?



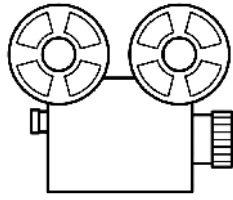
#### The Life Of Martin Luther (1483-1546) With Scenes From *Luther*

Martin Luther was born in Germany in the city of Eisleben. He was born in a simple home with a dirt floor.

Martin's father wanted him to have a good education and become a lawyer. He attended college in the city of Erfurt, but did not enjoy it very much.

Luther was troubled by the spiritual question: "What must I do to be saved?" He knew that his sins deserved to be punished by God and he was afraid of that punishment. He finally decided that if he became a *monk* he could live a holier life and be more pleasing to God.

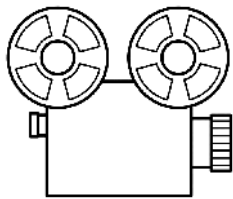
Do you think he would find peace with God in the monastery? Why or why not?



## Scene (2) – 2 m 10 s (5:50 - 8:00)

Luther entered the monastery in Erfurt thinking that he could please God by living a holy life. This scene shows him troubled by his sins. John Staupitz, one of the leaders of the monastery, tries to comfort Luther.

- **Ephesians 2:8-9** (791) Can a person get to heaven by living a holy life?
- Sadly, there are many who think like Luther once did. People who are not Christians believe that people are saved by being good. This false idea often leads to despair (as it did in Luther's case).
- How did Luther feel about God at this point in his life? Why?



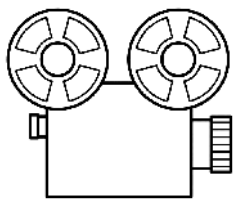
## Scene (5) – 6 m 40 s (22:00 - 28:40)

By studying his Bible, Luther discovered that he was not saved by leading a holy life. He was saved because Jesus had lived a holy life for him and then died to accept the punishment for all his sins.

- **John 1:29** (593)
- **1 Peter 3:18a** (591)

Luther became a teacher at the University in Wittenberg. This scene also shows him teaching one of his classes. It was commonly thought that by praying in front of certain relics and buying indulgences, a person could escape from time in purgatory. The Catholic Church said that purgatory was the place people suffered for their sins before going on to heaven.

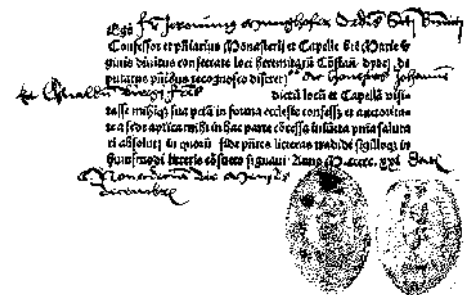
- Discuss: *Purgatory*
- Discuss: *Indulgences*
- Discuss: *Relics*



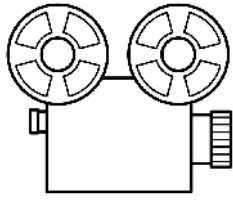
## Scene (7) – 5 m 50 s (32:34 - 38:15)

John Tetzel was a famous seller of indulgences. By buying an indulgence, the people thought they could escape the punishment for their sins and help others escape too. It was very much like buying God's forgiveness and mercy.

- What is the *real* way we escape punishment for our sins?



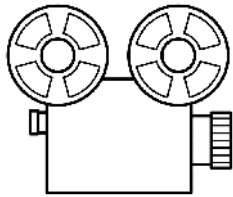
Copy of an indulgence from 1521



### Scene (8) – 8 m 30 s (38:15-46:38)

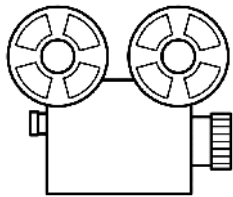
Martin Luther was upset that so many people thought they could get into heaven by paying money (buying an indulgence). He wrote a series of 95 statements (theses) against the selling of indulgences. In October 31, 1517, he nailed the *Ninety-Five Theses* to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, hoping for a debate on the issue. Pope Leo X is angered by Luther's writings against the practices of the church and threatens to excommunicate him.

- What happened to John Tetzel's "business" once Luther started speaking against indulgences?
- Characters in this scene: *Pope Leo X, head of the Catholic Church*
- Characters in this scene: *Spalatin, friend of Martin Luther*
- When can the Christian do who is troubled by his sins? See **Psalm 32:5** (1042)



### Scene (11) – 4 m 0 s (1:02-1:06)

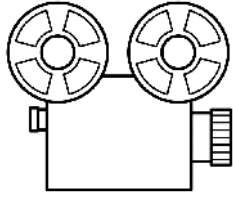
Luther continued to write books and articles against false teachings and false practices in the church. Pope Leo X declared that Martin Luther was excommunicated from the church. In response, Luther burned the Pope's notice (the *Papal Bull*).



### Scene (12) – 5 m 0 s (1:06-1:11)

In those days, the Pope and the Roman Emperor were closely connected politically. Because Luther was a problem for the Pope, he was a problem for the Emperor too. Emperor Charles V wanted Luther to come to Rome for a meeting. Duke Frederick (the leader of Saxony, where Luther lived) refused because it would have been too dangerous for Luther to go to Rome. It was decided that the meeting would be held at the German city of Worms (*Diet of Worms*). At the diet, Emperor Charles V would demand that Luther take back his writings against the Catholic Church.

- Characters in this scene: *Emperor Charles V*
- Characters in this scene: *Duke Frederick*



### Scene (13) – 9 m 0 s – (1:11-1:20)

The *Diet at Worms* where it was demanded of Luther that he take back his writings against the church. Luther stood firm, knowing that what he had written was based on the Bible. He refused to take back what he had written.

- Why did Luther refuse to take back his writings even though he knew that if he didn't his life would be in grave danger?
- Can you think of examples today where people stand up for Jesus and are persecuted for it?



### Memory Passage

Romans 3:28 (792) Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

### Assignment

- Read about the life of Martin Luther in your catechism (pp. 21-24)