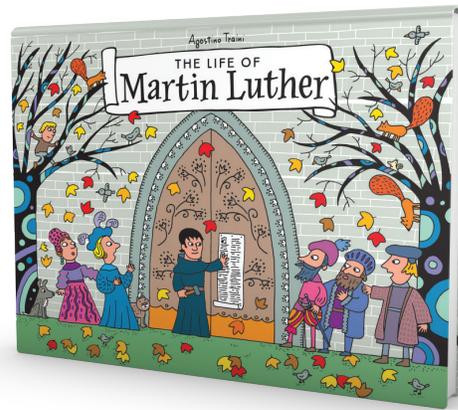


~~15~~ 10 Ways to Use

THE LIFE OF Martin Luther

as a Teaching Tool



1. Read the book aloud as the basis of the children's message on Reformation Sunday (or any Sunday!).
2. Use the book to build a diorama of the scenes, and have children act them out using their fingers or small action figures.
3. Make your own pop-up card in the same pop-up style as *The Life of Martin Luther*. See a video of how to do that here! <http://bit.ly/MartinPopUp>
4. Explore the pop-up pages in depth, looking for hidden details. Discuss what you think the illustrator intended by hiding those details where he did.
5. Have teachers tell the story in class, asking kids on every page.
 - a. What do you notice?
 - b. What questions do you have?
 - c. What do you think will happen next?
6. Separate the class (or all classes) into groups and give them each one page of the book. Have them create a skit based detailing what happens on that page. When put together, all of the skits will create a small one-act play. Have them perform it for parents, the other classes, or even the entire church.

7. After reading the book, have kids write 95 things (like Luther's theses) they know about God/love about church/etc on mural paper. Hang it on a door.
8. "This I believe..." Set up a video camera or use a smart phone (with permission, of course!) and film kids talking about things they believe in. This doesn't have to be religious. Just ask: what do you believe in?
9. I trust God when... Have kids brainstorm a list of things that make them nervous or scared. On the other half of the paper, look for and write down Bible verses that remind us that God is with us even when we're scared. (Prepare the verses beforehand for younger kids.)
10. Have kids draw a picture. On one side, a storm - the biggest/craziest storm they can think of. On the other side, have them draw a perfect, nice day. Use it as a reminder that God's grace is with us, even in the most difficult situations.
11. Create 5 x7 cards of key characters in the story and provide a picture (usually available via internet search) short biographical description to supplement the story. An example would be Holy Roman Emperor Charles V. Or you could highlight the printing press with a description card and picture. The cards would be used to supplement the reading of the pop-up book.
12. Use a finger puppet narrator to tell the story and to point out key characters or other items in the book.
13. Create a simple timeline of Martin Luther's life highlighting: birth, thunderstorm promise to become a monk, teacher at Wittenberg, 95 Theses, Here I Stand at Worms, marriage to Katie, death.
14. Show Luther's Rose and explanation as a way to talk about his key ideas regarding faith. An example is in our Lutheran Study Bible, p. 1536. Google searching on Luther's rose would usually bring up a number of good descriptions.
15. Choose your favorite or most interesting part of Martin Luther's story, and help your kid(s) dig deeper with a little research! Martin Luther believed individuals should have the right to read and research for themselves. Find an aspect of his life story that interests you and research it from original sources online or at the library. Try to find one that encourages you to practice your faith in a new and inspiring way.

"Lively, colorful depictions of key scenes in Luther's life accompany a simple telling of high points in his dramatic story to give children a sprightly introduction to the reformer's life and basic ideas. An ideal way of helping the young get acquainted with Luther."

—Robert Kolb, Professor of Systematic Theology Emeritus, Concordia Seminary