

[HOMEPAGE]

For families of junior soldiers

THIS WEEK'S TOPIC:

The Reformation —Martin Luther

MEMORY VERSE:

John 1:17 (NIV)

"Moses gave us the law. Jesus Christ has given us grace and truth."

The memory verse for the week is included on each HOMEPAGE. Help your child review it during the week.

PARENT POINT:

Review the doctrines of The Salvation Army with your child. Help them understand what we believe as Christians and soldiers of The Salvation Army.



THIS WEEK IN JUNIOR SOLDIERS, the children started a four-week unit on notable Christians of the Church. Over the next few weeks, the children will learn about four individuals who have contributed to the formation of the Church as we know it.

In order for junior soldiers to understand what we believe as Salvationists today, it's important for them to understand the history behind the Christian Church. Beyond what they learn about the Church in Acts and in Paul's letters to the early Christians, junior soldiers need to understand the rich heritage that led the Church to become what it is today.

Martin Luther was born on November 10, 1483, in Eisleben, Germany. At the age of 17, he enrolled in the University of Erfut, and received both a bachelor's and master's degree. Upon graduation, Luther committed to being a monk and was ordained in 1507.

After being ordained, he was appointed to the University of Wittenberg, a German university staffed by monks, to give lectures on moral philosophy. In 1512, Luther was appointed as the chair of biblical theology at the University of Wittenberg. He held that position until his death in 1546.

While preparing for his lectures on the New Testament, Luther started to believe that Christians are saved by God's grace, not by human efforts. This belief caused Luther to turn against some of the major beliefs of the Catholic Church.

Martin Luther is most famous for posting his 95 Theses opposing the practice of the Catholic Church to sell indulgences (relief of sin) to raise funds for the construction of St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome. It's believed that Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg.

Luther believed that God interacts with humans through the law and through the gospel. He believed that God's gift of grace through Jesus Christ required nothing but acceptance... no works could earn God's grace. Luther's beliefs were the catalyst for the 16th century movement to reform the Roman Catholic Church, which led to the establishment of the Protestant churches. This movement was called the Reformation.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOME

This lesson assisted junior soldiers in understanding how the Protestant churches were formed. They learned about the life and beliefs of Martin Luther, and how his 95 Theses led to the 16th century movement called the Reformation.