

Martin Who?

Readings	1) Revelation 14:6-7 2) Romans 3:19-28 3) John 8:31-36
Scripture Focus	
Take Away	
Aids (pics, props, etc.)	Picture of Martin Luther and/or somebody to speak his words.

Message

Today is Reformation Sunday. Do you know what reformation means? It means to change. Today we remember the man who helped the church change. His name is MARTIN LUTHER. Not Martin Luther King, not Martin Luther King Junior, just plain old Martin Luther regular, but this man was not plain or regular. Martin Luther lived so long ago that nobody could read the Bible. You know why? They didn't know how to read and even if they did, they didn't have a Bible, and even if they did, it was written in a language they didn't know.

Martin was a great student. "I love learning! There's so much to learn that I could go to school forever." He did so well that they told him he could learn more about the law, medicine, or theology (God). His dad wanted him to study the law, so that's what he chose. "I'm going to study the law."

Then, one day there was a very bad storm. It was raining with loud thunder and lightning all around him. He was so scared he fell down on the ground and said to God, "God, please save me! I promise to give my whole life to you if you save me from this storm!" And God did. And Martin Luther said, "I'm NOT going to study the law. I'm going to study the Bible and learn about God." And he did. "First they told me God wanted me to be good, then they said God would love me if I was the best, and now I feel like I have to be perfect for God to love me. I keep trying and trying, but I don't know how to be perfect! What can I do?" Martin thought there was no way he could ever win God's love.

Martin learned a lot from reading the Bible. You know what else he learned? "Wait a minute. The church is telling people they can buy a ticket to get into heaven. That's not right! Wait another minute. The Bible says I don't have to be perfect to go to heaven because Jesus was perfect for me. The church is wrong! I have to tell them!" So, Martin Luther put a note on the door of the church that said, "That's not what the Bible says! Stop teaching those things!" But they wouldn't stop and church leaders got really mad at him. They tried and tried to get him to stop saying they were doing wrong things, but he would not stop. They told him they were going to throw him out of the church, but he said, "I'll never stop telling the truth about the Bible! I can't lie about God!" He got in all kinds of trouble and people didn't like him, but you know what? He never lied about the Bible. You know what else? He wrote the Bible in a language that people could read so they could read what it says themselves. "I want everyone to be able to read the Bible and learn about God so they don't have to listen to somebody else tell them about it. You know what I want you to do? Have your parents read Bible stories to you at night before you go to bed, take you to Sunday school, and pray. Can you do that?"

[Have parents see the pastor if they don't have an age-appropriate Bible.]

Let's pray.	
Repeat Prayer	Dear God, You always know what we need. Thank you for giving us / the Bible / our parents / pastors / and Sunday school teachers. They all teach us about you and Jesus. Thank you for loving us. We love you. Amen.