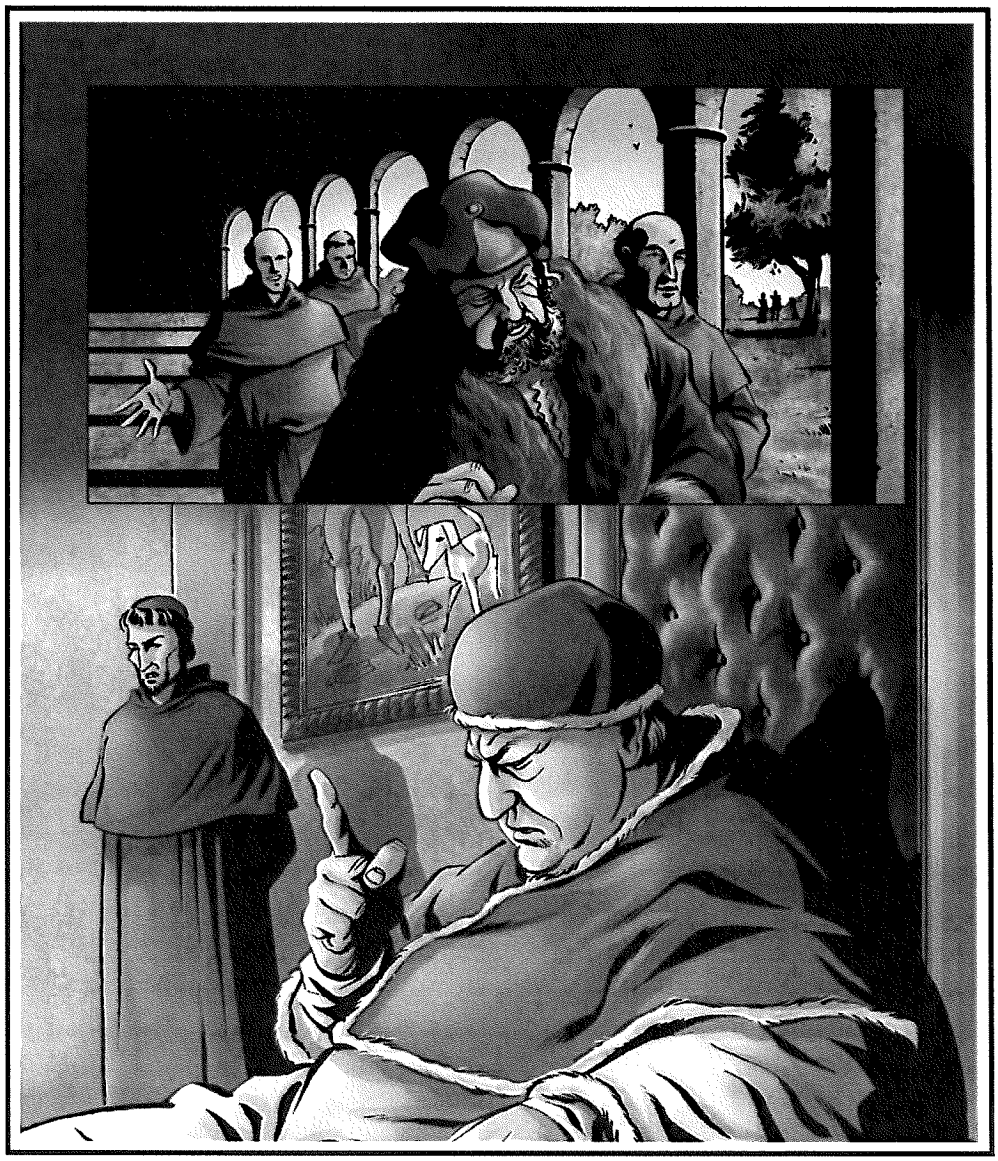
✦ The Heretic's Trial ✦



A Faith Inkubators System Theme Set www.faithink.com

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is a gift of God."

– Ephesians 2:8

FAITH 5™
GUIDE HANDOUT

Luther/Catechism THEME | 04

Heretic's Trial

OBJECTIVE

To help groups understand Luther's willingness to lose everything, including his life, to stand up for the truth of the Bible.

FOCUS THIS WEEK

On trial for what he believed, Martin Luther stuck to his guns (and to the Bible). Even though the powers-that-be threatened to discredit him, kick him out of the church, and in effect, sign his death warrant, he stood firm. His conscience told him that he couldn't do anything else. What does this mean for a teenager today? It's one thing to speak out. It's quite another to suffer for it. Is there anything in their lives they hold so firmly in their hearts that they would pay the price for it?

FAITH5 SMALL GROUP TIME

SHARE highs and lows to set the stage for a more open and meaningful discussion. Pair group members up one-on-one to share the best and worst things that happened this week. After a short while, return to small group and invite each person to share their partner's highs and lows. Encourage youth to write their personal highs and lows, those of their partner, and a short prayer on their FAITH5 Small Group Time Handout.

READ and highlight the theme verse,Ephesians 2:8, in your Bibles and circle key words. A musical version of this Scripture verse can be found at www.faithink.com, FINKlink LC04.

TALK about how the Bible reading might relate to today's highs and lows. Supplement your discussion with some of the following.

A. IMAGES IN WORDS AND ART

Take a look at the theme art and cartoons. What do you see in the art? Ask youth where they are in the art. How might the art and the theme verse apply to your group highs and lows today?

B. CATECHISM ENCOUNTER

Find the two sacraments in Luther's Small Catechism. What are they? What do they have in common? Accept and affirm all thoughtful answers.

C. QUESTIONS TO PONDER

1. What is a conscience? What do your conscience and the Holy Spirit have to do with one another? Our conscience can be the "still, small voice" of God that guides our lives and actions.

2. What do each of these mean to you?

God's Grace Alone (Sola Gratia): The love and grace of God through Christ is a free gift.
God's Word Alone (Solum Scriptura): The Bible—not man-made laws, rules, or traditions—is our guide.
Faith Alone (Sola Fide): It is only by grace through faith in Jesus that anyone can hope to come to God.

3. What is a saint? What is a sinner? How can Lutherans say Christians are both at the same time (simul justis et peccator)? (Pronounced sim-hul eew-stis eht pek-ahh-tor) We are all sinners, but trusting in Christ's sacrifice in our place and washed in his blood, we are saints in God's sight.

D. QUOTATIONS

Ask youth to choose a quotation and share their thoughts and questions about it.

E. TERMS OF THE WEEK

Review these key terms and write definitions.

Diet of Worms: The trial held in Worms, Germany on April 16, 1521 where Luther was ordered to renounce his views.

Here I Stand: Traditionally believed to be Luther's reply when asked if he would back down.

Recant: To take back or renounce what you have written or said.

Sola gratia, scriptura, fidae: Luther's motto, meaning God's grace alone (sola gratia), God's Word alone (sola scriptura), and faith alone (sola fide).

Wartburg Castle: Luther's hiding place following his trial. While there, he translated the New Testament.

F. GROUP BUSINESS

1. Servant Event Idea: If allowed in your area, take a mini-field trip to a local court and observe a trial. Make sure it is an appropriate one to use as an example. Ask your kids to research organizations like the NAACP Legal Defense Fund (www.naacpldf.org), Earthjustice (www.earthjustice.org), Children's Defense Fund (www.childrensdefense.org), the Alliance Defense Fund (www.alliancedefensefund.org), or others. These are wide-ranging organizations all across the political spectrum. Do any of the goals match the values of your group? Is it a worthwhile thing to help defend those that cannot defend themselves?

2. FAITH5 Home Huddle: Encourage youth to take a few minutes for FAITH5 with their families each night at home, using the FAITH5 Journals or the Home Huddle Handout.

G. WRAP UP

Summarize the event with your group, assigning someone to share what you learned at closing.

- One new thing we learned today
- One thing we already knew that is worth repeating
- One thing we would like to know more about
- The highest highs and lowest lows which our group will bring to the closing prayer

PRAY for one another. Praise and thank God for your highs. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you in your lows. Include your friend's highs and lows in your prayers. Toss a newspaper into the center of the group or invite youth to think of something going on in the world that calls for prayer. **Tip:** Gather in a circle. Hold hands, lock arms or go shoulder-to-shoulder to bond your group!

BLESS one another by name. Trace a cross on each hand or forehead. Look them in the eyes and give them a smile. As for their blessing as well!

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FAITH 5™ HOME HUDDLE

Luther/Catechism THEME 04

Heretic's Trial

Keep your family communicating every night and grow together in insight, love and understanding. Use the Youth Handout and this simple 5-step process just before bed for maximum impact. Learn more about these easy and effective family communication tools at www.faith5.org.

SHARE your highs and lows of the day.

READ and highlight these verses—one a day—in your Bible.

Day 1 Ephesians 2:8-9
Day 2 Romans 8:38-39
Day 3 Galatians 5:1
Day 4 James 2:26b
Day 5 1 Peter 4:12-13
Day 6 Revelation 2:10b
Day 7 Review Ephesians 2:8

TALK about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows.

PRAY for one another. Praise and thank God for today's highs. Ask the Holy Spirit for help with today's lows. Include highs and lows of your family, friends and world in this prayer. Close in Jesus' name.

BLESS one another with the sign of the cross and these words:

(Name), child of God, may you be filled this day with confidence, courage and faith. In the name and power of Jesus. Amen.

Play this online game using FINKlink
LC04 www.faithink.com

ONLINE RESOURCES

Use the code (left) to access interactive games, Bible songs, and additional devotions on this theme.

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