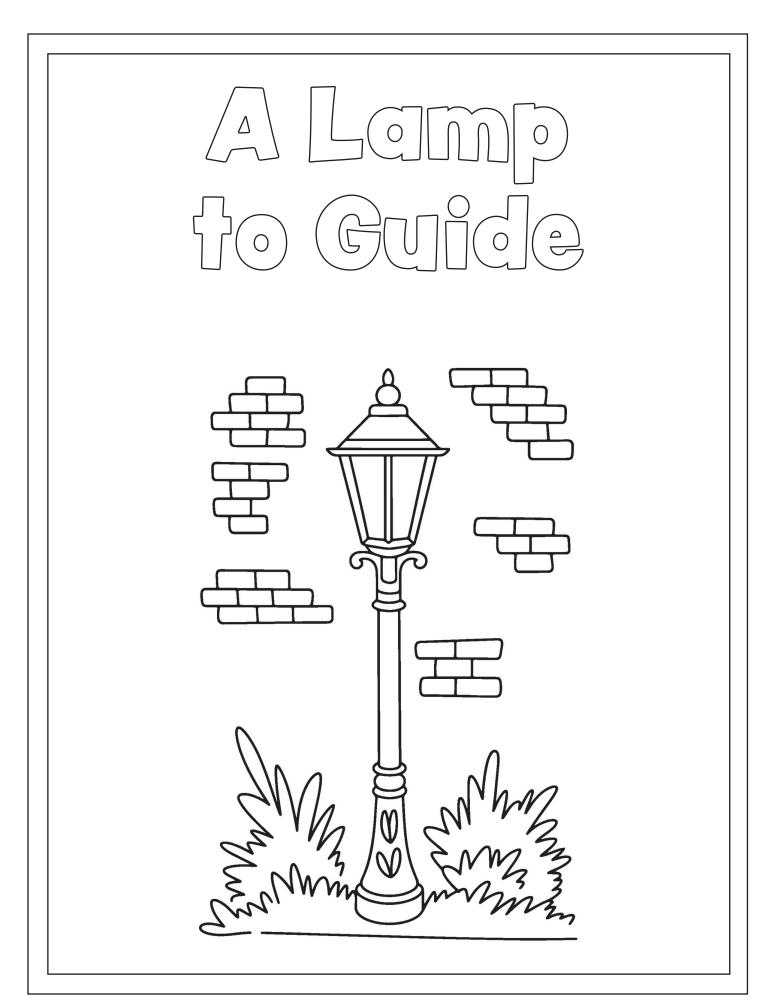
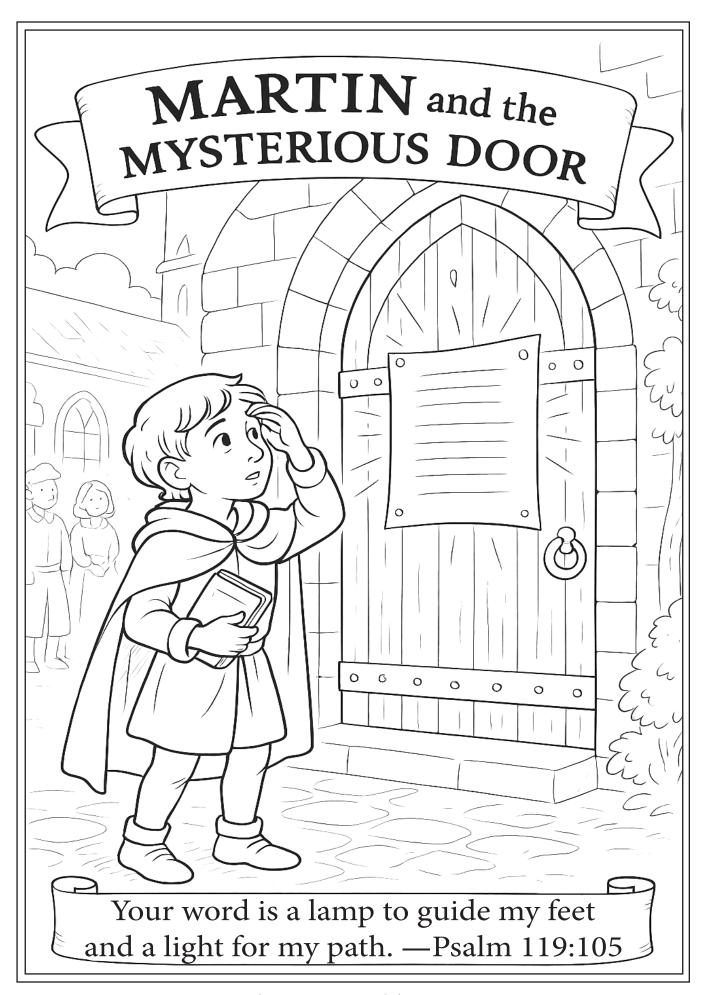
Stella's REFORMATION RONIUS







MARTIN and the MYSTERIOUS DOOR

The town of Wittenberg smelled of wood smoke and fresh ink. On most days, Martin hurried past the big church on his way to lessons, but this morning something made him stop.



A small crowd had gathered by the heavy wooden door. It was tall as a giant, iron-banded, and usually quiet—but today, a large sheet of parchment was nailed right to its center.

"What is it?" Martin whispered.

"Questions," said the baker's wife beside him. "Ninety-five of them!"

Martin's eyes widened. Questions? He loved questions—the kind that made your thoughts tumble like marbles.

He squeezed through the crowd until he could read the first few lines. "What if God's forgiveness is a gift?" "What if the Bible can speak for itself?"

StarLight Magazine www.starlightmagazine.com

The words made something spark inside him, like a lantern being lit.

That evening, Martin couldn't stop thinking about the door. Why would someone post questions there? Wasn't the church a place for answers?

When the candlelight grew low, he dreamed. In his dream, the wooden door began to glow. The nails shimmered like stars, and the parchment fluttered open like wings. Out poured light in the shape of words—Grace. Faith. Scripture.

Each word drifted into the night sky until the whole town shimmered with their glow.

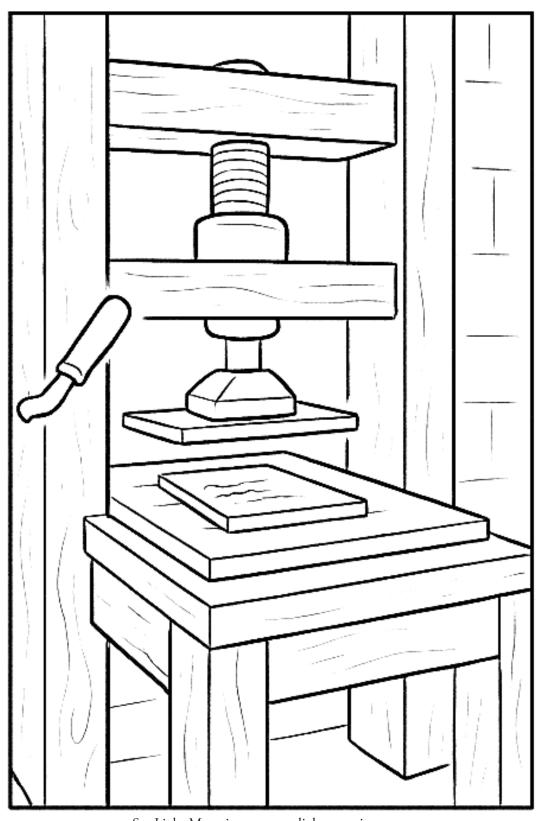


When he woke, his heart was still glowing too. He didn't yet know that the man who posted those questions was named Martin Luther, and that those words would travel across the world.

But young Martin—our Martin—understood something beautiful. God's truth wasn't locked behind doors. It was meant to be read, shared, and carried in hearts.

Later that week, his teacher let him visit the new printing press. Rows of tiny letters waited to be arranged into words. Martin helped set them carefully, one by one.

He smiled as the first page rolled out—black ink on white paper, fresh and bright.



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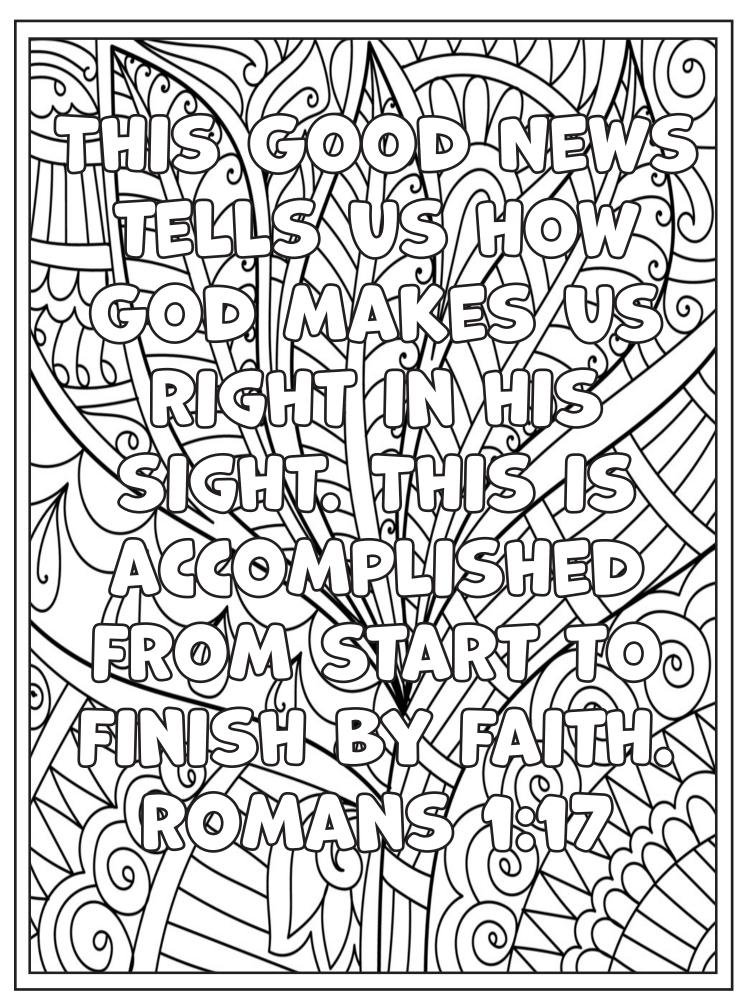
"Words," he whispered, "can open doors too."

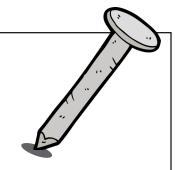


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IF YOU COULD HANG A QUESTION ON A DOOR FOR EVERYONE TO SEE, WHAT WOULD IT BE? WRITE OR DRAW IT BELOW.

DRAW YOUR OWN MYSTERIOUS DOOR. WHAT SHIRES BEHIND IT WHEN IT OPENS?





Did You Know?

Long ago, most people couldn't read the Bible for themselves—it was written in Latin, and only church leaders could study it. But in 1517, a monk named Martin Luther wanted everyone to know what God said in His Word.

He wrote 95 questions, called theses, and posted them on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany. That door was like a bulletin board for ideas! Luther's questions started big conversations that helped people return to the simple truth: we are saved by grace through faith.

Not long after, a new invention called the printing press made it possible to copy the Bible faster than ever before. For the first time, families could hold God's Word in their own hands and read it together.

MARTIN LUTHER – GOD'S REFORMER

by Miss Jean

Saying we are Christians means that we believe in Jesus as God's Son and as our Savior. Today in the 21st Century Christians can belong to one of many different churches. We might go to a Methodist or Presbyterian Church, or a Baptist or Assembly of God Church. We can be Brethren or Catholic, Nazarene or Lutheran. But that wasn't always true.

Hundreds of years ago during the Medieval age Christians did not have these choices. There was only one big church that was considered Christian. Over many years it grew very large, very powerful, and very wealthy.

Some of the things the medieval church did were wrong. They were not very "Christian" at all. But most people could not read and study the Bible for themselves. So, they did whatever the medieval church leaders told them to do.

In 1483 Martin Luther was born in Germany. Martin grew up and became very well educated. In 1507 he became a monk. That meant that he read, studied, taught, and preached the Bible. He was a really good speaker. People came from miles around to hear him teach and preach. Martin was super energetic, and a bit stubborn. When he believed something, no one or nothing could change his mind about it. And, he loved to debate others about it.

The more Martin Luther studied the Bible the more upset he became about some of the things the medieval church taught and did. He was also worried about his own sins. He tried and tried to be a good person. But he felt he could never be good enough to please God. After studying the Bible (especially the book of Romans) for years he concluded that the only way to please God was to put our faith in Jesus. He understood that the Bible says we can never do enough good works to be accepted by God—to be saved. That happens only with faith in Christ.

This truth was life-changing for him. It relieved his worry and anxiousness. Martin also became convinced that the medieval church was not teaching this truth to people. He was sure he was right about this, and he would not stop teaching and preaching about it. He made a list of all the things he believed that the church was doing against God's Word. This list was called *The Ninety-five Theses*. Martin wanted all the leaders of the church to discuss these things and decide to do what was right about them.

This made the leaders of the medieval church very angry. They told him he had to stop preaching about it or they would punish him.

Martin wrote his Ninety-five Theses down and nailed them to the front door of his church in Germany. This caused a BIG stir among church leaders and among thousands of ordinary people. We call this big stir *The Protestant Reformation*. Each year at the end of October, many churches celebrate the Reformation and remember Martin Luther as its leader.

Reformation means to change things drastically—to take things apart and put them back together differently. Martin wasn't trying to start a whole new religion. But he was trying to reform that one big Church. He was trying to get the leaders of the Church to fix those ninety-five things and change the Church to be more Christ-like.

For years Martin kept on talking and writing pamphlets about the things he believed were wrong.

Other leaders in small towns and churches across Europe believed the same way that Martin did. They also began preaching and teaching that things must change. The idea of making these changes spread across Europe from village to village, and church to church like a wildfire. Soon thousands of people left the one big Church and started their own kinds of churches.

Martin didn't plan to make new kinds of churches. But his ideas and his determination that he was right reformed many things. He gave others the courage to protest and demand changes, too. His ideas sparked the beginnings of many different Christian churches, and even changed many governments in Europe.

Other people called Martin, and those who agreed with him, Protestants because they protested some of the teachings and practices of the medieval church. Those who followed exactly what Martin Luther taught were called *Lutherans*.

The names stuck. Today, Baptists, Methodists, Lutherans, Presbyterians, Assembly of God people, and lots of other churches are called Protestant churches.

Martin Luther became famous in Europe. He didn't set out to become famous. But speaking out and writing about the things he knew were true, made him famous. His strength and determination to do the right thing inspired many people to break away from the medieval church and start their own kinds of churches. This is why he is called the Father of the Protestant Reformation.

Martin lived to be an old man. He married and had six children whom he loved dearly. He and his wife, Kathe, helped many people who were poor and orphaned. He spent the rest of his life teaching people the truths of the Bible.

He also translated the entire Bible from Greek and Hebrew into the German language so that every German person could read it for themselves. This was exciting because the medieval church kept the Bible a secret so that only the leaders could read it.

Two very important truths that Martin Luther held dear were:

- 1. Salvation is a gift from God that we receive by faith in Christ alone. No one can do enough good things to earn salvation.
- 2. The only way to learn God's truth and how to please God is to study the Bible. No other books, and no other person can tell us what God's truth is.

These two things became the foundation for all Protestant churches' beliefs. Martin Luther's goal was not to change the world, but simply to make Christianity true to Christ and the Bible. But Martin did change the world because he allowed God to change him. He worked to bring Christianity back to its foundations of godly truth and sincerity. That resulted in the formation of many Protestant churches around the world.

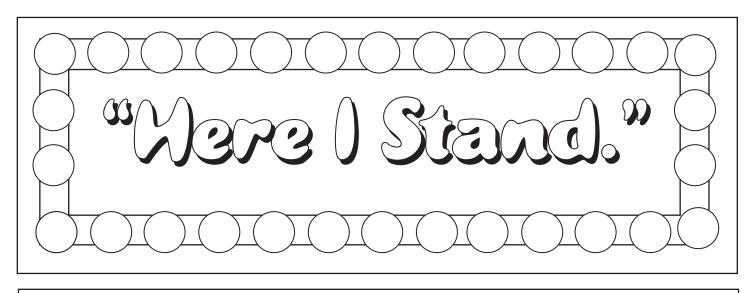
Use this story to help you with the crossword puzzle.



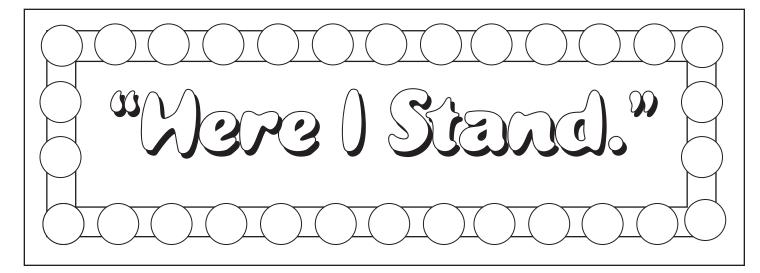
BOOKMARKS!

In the spirit of Martin Luther and Reformation Day when asked to change his statement he said, "Here I stand; I can do no other." Of course this was in German!

Color and cut out these 3 bookmarks. Maybe even use packing tape or laminate them. I bet you'll make them look great!







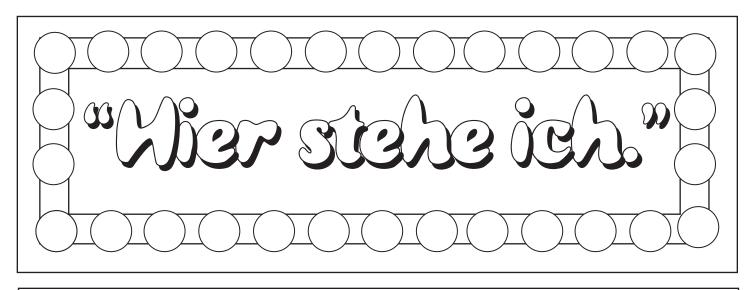
BOOKMARKS!

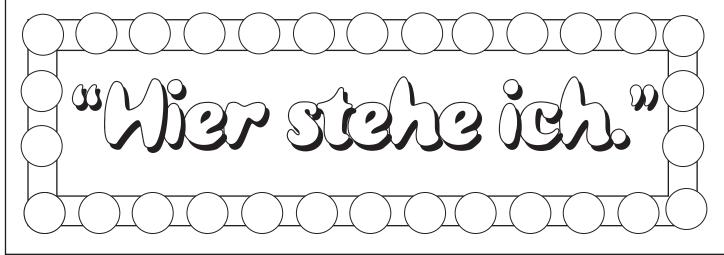
The phrase "Here I stand" in German—the famous line attributed to Martin Luther—is: "Hier stehe ich." (pronounced heer shtay-eh eekh)

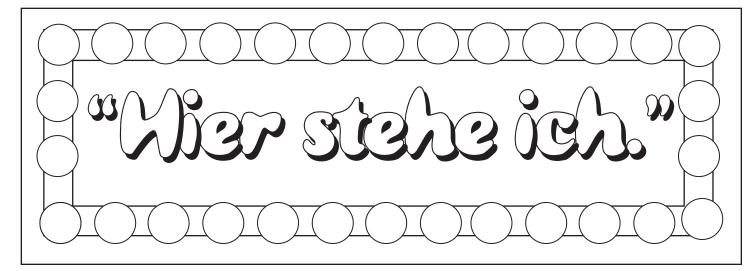
The fuller quotation often cited from Luther's defense at the Diet of Worms in 1521 is:

"Hier stehe ich, ich kann nicht anders. Gott helfe mir. Amen."

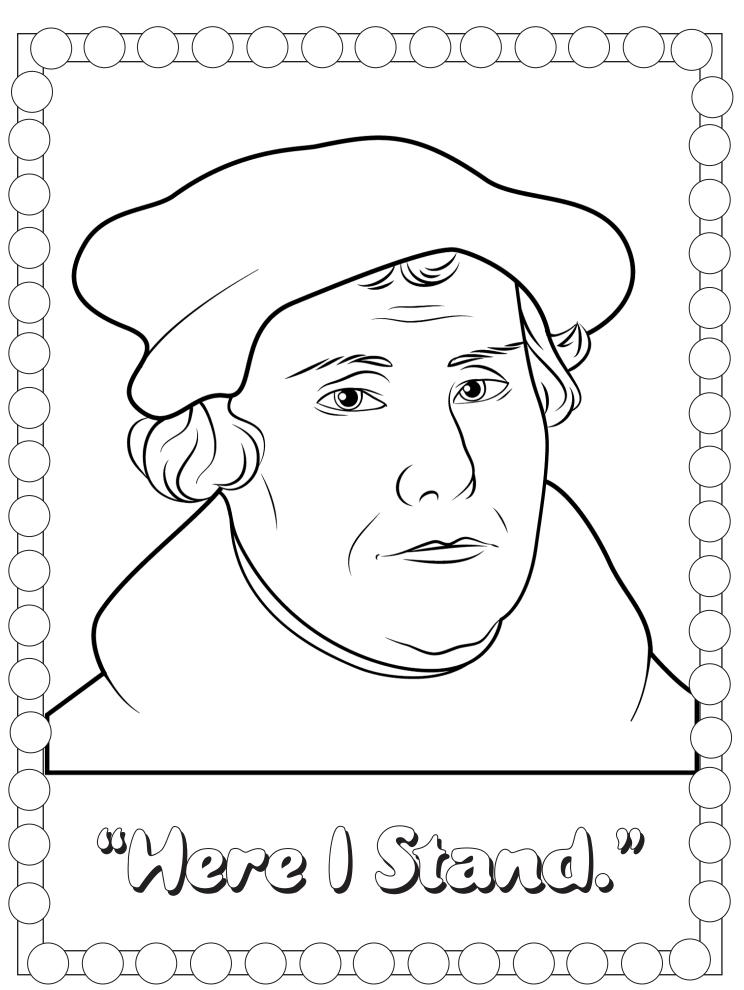
"Here I stand, I can do no other. God help me. Amen."













REFORMATION WORD SEARCH 1

Words can be found in **any** direction and can share letters as they cross over each other.

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REFORMATION WORD SEARCH 2



Words can be found in either left to right or top going down.

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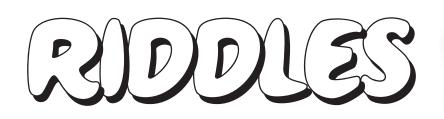
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RIDOLEI

I have no mouth, yet I can speak, In black and white, my words will leak. I press, I print, I tell, I teach— Through ink and page, my hands can reach.

I changed the world without a sound-Through me, God's truth was quickly found.

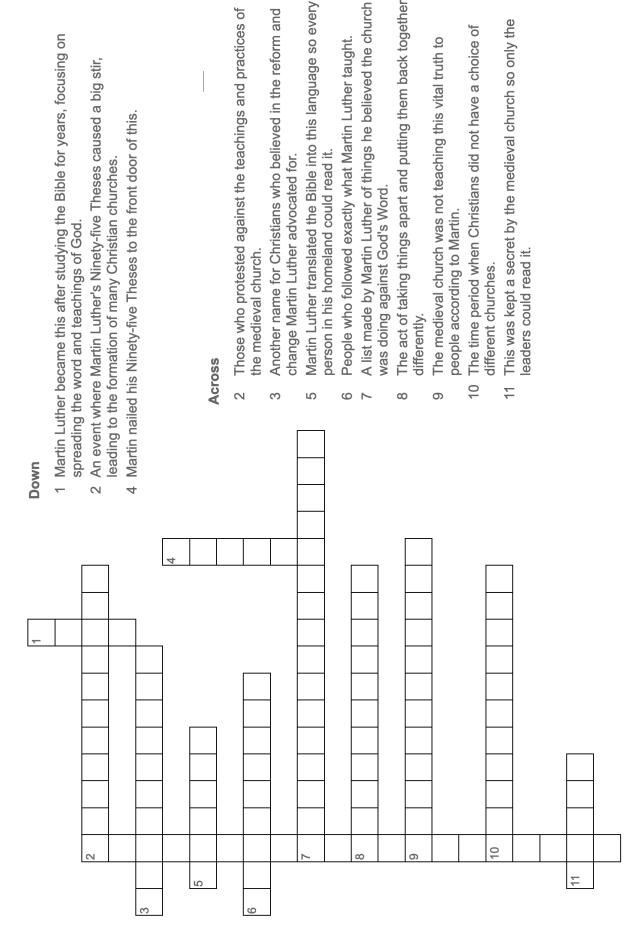
What am I?

RIDDLE 2

In days of old, I stood so bold, With theses in hand, I'd make a stand. Not a king, nor a knight, but a monk with a plight, For a church to reform, I would ignite.

Who am I?

God's Reformer Crossword

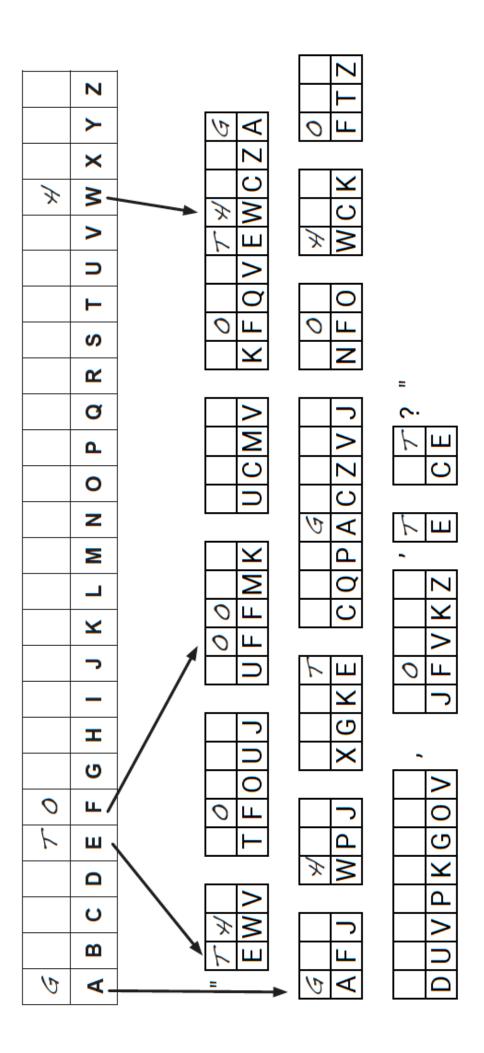


Cryptogram Puzzle Instructions

A cryptogram is a secret code where letters are replaced with different letters. Your job? Crack the code and reveal the hidden quote!

Each letter in the puzzle stands for a different letter of the alphabet. In this example, if A = G and F = O, W = H so every time you see an A, write G, and every time you see an F, write O and so on.

As you fill in letters, you'll start recognizing words. Use those solved letters to crack other words and reveal the full message!



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A Quote from the book of Psalms

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A Quote from the book of Romans

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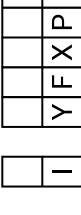
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A Quote from Luther's hymn

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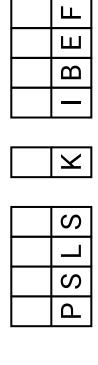
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A Quote from Martin Luther

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A Quote from a 17th-century hymn

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Puzzle Solutions

Cryptogram Puzzles

Instruction full solution:

A Quote from Anne of Green Gables (Lucy Maud Montgomery):

"The world looks like something God had just imagined for His own pleasure, doesn't it?"

Cryptogram #1: The just shall live by faith. -Romans 1:17

Cryptogram #2: Your word is a lamp to my feet. -Psalm 119:105

Cryptogram #3: We walk by faith, not by sight. -2 Corinthians 5:7

Cryptogram #4: Faith comes by hearing the word of God. -Romans 10:17

Cryptogram #5: The truth will set you free. -John 8:32

Hymn & Reformation-era quotes

Cryptogram #6: A mighty fortress is our God. -from Luther's hymn

Cryptogram #7: God's Word forever shall abide. -from A Mighty Fortress

Cryptogram #8: Here I stand, I can do no other. -Martin Luther

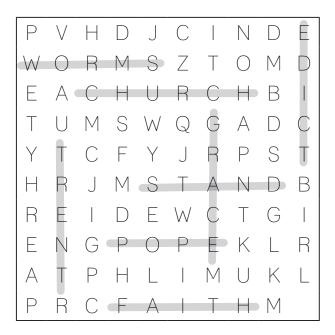
Cryptogram #9: Grace alone, faith alone, Scripture alone. -Reformation motto

Cryptogram #10: Sing praise to God who reigns above. -17th-century hymn

REFORMATION WORD SFARCH 1

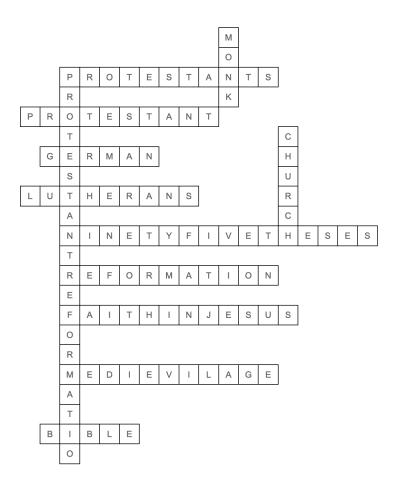
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REFORMATION WORD SFARCH 2



Puzzle Solutions

Reformation Crossword



Printing press

ADDU32 Martin Luther