

Luther and the Reformation: Schism or Change within the Church?

Einen Überblick über die Reformationsbewegung erhalten

Nach Ideen von Charlotte Kellner, Stuttgart und Manuel Köhler, Würzburg



© Thinkstock/Stock; © Foto: Michael Sander/CC-BY-SA-3.0

Where do the different Christian denominations come from?

Worin liegen heute die Unterschiede zwischen der katholischen und der evangelischen Kirche? Warum gibt es in Deutschland zwei große christliche Glaubensgemeinschaften? Wollte der Theologe Martin Luther vor 500 Jahren die Kirche verändern oder spalten?

Anhand von Bildern, Zitaten und schülergerechten Darstellungstexten beschäftigen sich die Lernenden mit der Reformation in Deutschland. Sie erarbeiten wichtige Einblicke in die Ursachen für die Unzufriedenheit der Gläubigen mit der Kirche vor 500 Jahren, die Motive Martin Luthers, dagegen zu protestieren, sowie die Etappen, die letztendlich zur Kirchenspaltung führten.

Klassenstufe: 7–10

Dauer: 8 Stunden

Bereich: spätes Mittelalter

Kompetenzen:

- Gründe für die Unzufriedenheit der Gläubigen mit der Kirche vor 500 Jahren benennen und den Wunsch nach einer Veränderung der kirchlichen Sitten und Bräuche nachvollziehen
- die unmittelbaren Folgen der Reformation für Martin Luther sowie die Schritte bis zur Kirchenspaltung erläutern
- die Unterschiede und Gemeinsamkeiten der katholischen und evangelischen Kirche in der heutigen Zeit benennen

Materialübersicht

1./2. Stunde: What was the situation of the Catholic Church?

| | | |
|-----|------|--|
| M 1 | (Bi) | Catholicism and Protestantism – two Christian denominations |
| M 2 | (Tx) | What was the attitude of the people towards the Church? (Partner A) |
| M 3 | (Tx) | What were the problems of the Catholic Church? (Partner B) |
| M 4 | (Tx) | Solution sheet – the Catholic Church in the 15 th century |
| M 5 | (Tx) | Fear of hell? –The Church offers an alternative |
| M 6 | (Im) | A letter of complaint from a citizen |

3./4. Stunde: Who was Martin Luther and what were his beliefs?

| | | |
|------|---------|---|
| M 7 | (Bi/Im) | What do you know about Martin Luther? |
| M 8 | (Ab) | Martin Luther's life |
| M 9 | (Ab) | What were the differences between the Catholic Church and Luther's beliefs? |
| M 10 | (Tx) | What do citizens think of Luther's ideas? – Instructions for a role play |

5./6. Stunde: How did Luther challenge the Church?

| | | |
|------|---------|--|
| M 11 | (Bi/Im) | How did Luther challenge the Church? |
| M 12 | (Tx) | Luther challenged the Church (Group A) |
| M 13 | (Tx) | Luther was charged (Group B) |
| M 14 | (Tx) | Luther translated the Bible (Group C) |
| M 15 | (Im) | For fast workers – additional tasks |

7./8. Stunde: What were the direct consequences of the Reformation?

| | | |
|------|------|--|
| M 16 | (Im) | What were the direct consequences of the Reformation? |
| M 17 | (Tx) | What consequences did Luther's ideas have? – A multi-interview |
| M 18 | (Im) | A letter from the village residents |

Ab: Arbeitsblatt – **Bi:** Bild – **Im:** (Gesprächs-/Handlungs-)Impuls – **Tx:** Text

M 11 How did Martin Luther challenge the Church?

I have to tell the Church
what I think!



© imago/United Archives International

Tasks

1. Describe the picture.
2. What could Luther probably have written in the pamphlets?
3. Why do you think Luther challenged the Church?
4. What could be the consequences of a conflict with the Church?

M 14 Luther translated the Bible

C

Why did Luther translate the Bible? You will find out here!

The imperial law assured¹ Luther 21 days of free escort for his return. In a forest, on orders of the Elector of Saxony, Frederick the Wise, Luther was kidnapped and brought to the Wartburg in Thuringia. The Elector wanted to save
5 Luther from the Church and the Emperor and to bring him to safety.

Elector Frederick the Wise gave Luther a new identity. Under the name of *Knight George* (Junker Jörg) and with changed appearance, he lived in the castle for several
10 months undetected.

Here, he translated the New Testament from Latin into German. Later, he also translated the Old Testament and many hymns².



The Wartburg near Eisenach

© Thinkstock/iStock

He wanted to enable³ all people to have access⁴ to the Bible and to give them the opportunity to read
15 God's word themselves so that they could form their own opinion and to individually live their faith. Before, the texts of the Bible used to be exclusively in Latin. In this way, the Church secured itself as the only authority to read and interpret the words of the Bible.

Back then, however, there was no universal German language, rather, many different dialects. Luther managed to put his translation into a language that all people could understand and that was very clear
20 and close to the reality of people's life. It was no standard German but a spoken German appropriate⁵ to being read out loud and for recitation⁶. With his works, like the translation of the Bible and his German hymns, he laid the foundation⁷ for a uniform High German language.

With the help of the printing press, the Luther-Bible became the most widely read book in Germany. Today, the first edition from 1534 is the official Bible edition of the Protestant Church.

Annotations

1 **to assure**: zusichern – 2 **hymn**: hier: Kirchenlied – 3 **to enable**: in die Lage versetzen – 4 **access**: Zugang –
5 **appropriate**: geeignet – 6 **recitation**: Vortrag – 7 **foundation**: Grundlage

Tasks

1. Describe what happened to Luther after the Diet of Worms.
2. Explain why Luther translated the Bible.
3. Evaluate the importance of the translated Luther-Bible.
4. Put yourself in the position of farmer Johannes. What could he have thought when he listened to the Bible in German for the first time? Takes notes in the speech bubble.

