

Lutheran FAQ: Who Was Martin Luther?

Martin Luther wasn't expected to become a pastor and professor, but God changed things. When have you felt God's call to change your life?

The book of Romans changed Luther's life. What Bible verse or section is important to you?

Luther prayed to Saint Anna when he was scared by a storm. He wanted her to pray for him, like a friend might. Which friends or family would pray for you when you're scared? _____

When he was a young monk, Luther said that he saw Jesus more as a jailer and executioner than a Savior and Comforter. Do you see God as more one side or the other? Why? _____

Luther was so worried about his own sin that his mentor sent him to go teach. Staupitz knew that Luther needed to experience God by serving other people. How does helping others connect us with what's important? _____

When Luther said at the Diet of Worms, "Here I stand," what was he standing on? (Note to all dad-jokers, "the floor" is not an answer. We're going for metaphor here.) _____

Martin Luther had lots of opportunities to be brave or to run away. Which one stands out to you? What gave him the courage to do what he did? _____

Luther wrote and said some offensive and harmful things, but God still used him to change the world. What does that mean for us? Do we have to be perfect? And if not, why try to be good? _____

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When he was a young monk, Luther said that he saw Jesus more as a jailer and executioner than a Savior and Comforter. What images of God have you held over the years? _____

Luther was all tangled up in himself and his mentor sent him to go teach. When have you needed to get out of your head? How did you experience God by helping someone else? _____

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Martin Luther loved the church and tried to make it what he knew it could be. How do we relate to government and church structures? What do we learn from Luther's efforts and works? _____

Luther wrote and said some offensive and harmful things, but God still used him to change the world. What does that mean for us? Who else shows us how to be saint and sinner? _____

Deeper Dive:

- There are so many good books and movies about the life of Luther. Check out your local bookstore or library, or see what might be streaming.
- Augsburg Fortress Publishers has several history books that can paint a more detailed picture of the Reformation, Luther and his role, Katherina von Bora and other noteworthy women, and the effects of that movement on the whole church.
- <https://youtu.be/rZ3AFZXXX-k?si=jrcblcJpaaGp6Zj5> has a telling of the Reformation story to the tune of "Manic Monday" by the channel historyteachers on YouTube. It's well worth 3:13 of your time.