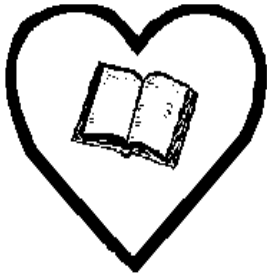


“This message spread rapidly in most of Europe, and the Evangelical movement was born.”

**Memorize** Psalm 119:11: “Your Word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against you.”



Let the children **draw a picture** of the Bible inside a heart. Let them show their pictures to the adults during worship time, and explain that the best way to keep the Word of God is to learn it by heart

**Poem.** Let three children each recite a verse from Psalm 119:9-11.

How can a young man keep his way pure?  
By keeping it according to your word.

With all my heart I have sought you;  
Do not let me wander from your commandments.

Your word I have treasured in my heart,  
That I may not sin against you.

**Let the older children write** a poem, song or brief drama from **Mark 7:1-23** about Jesus' conversation with the Pharisees about obeying God's commandments and making sure that the words that come from our mouths are pure. They might do this during the week.

**Prayer.** “Dear Lord, help us to be brave like Martin Luther and others who taught that you save us because you love us, and not because we earn our own way into heaven by our own works.”

## Martin Luther Let People Read the Bible

**Prayer:** “Dear Lord, please help the children to embrace the great biblical truths that Martin Luther proclaimed to correct bad teaching among millions of believers.”

The devil says:



**Forget the Bible! Just teach what people want to hear.**

When we teach the traditions of men instead of the Word of God, we make Satan happy.

Choose **activities** that fit available time and the children's ages.

Let an older child or adult tell the story of what Jesus told the Pharisees, from **Mark 7:1-13**.

**Ask** the children:

- The Pharisees were religious leaders. What did they teach instead of the commands of God?
- Why should we teach the Bible instead of the commands of men?

**Dramatize** the story of Martin Luther, a great defender of the Bible:

- Arrange with the worship leader for the children to present the drama.
- You do not have to use all the parts of the story.
- Let older children help the younger ones to prepare.
- Let older children or adults play the parts of Luther, Helper, Official, and Narrator.

- Let younger children play the parts of Peasants and Soldiers.
- The Narrator may read his parts.

**Narrator:** “Luther was a Roman Catholic monk in Germany. We can learn about him from history books and not from the Bible, because he lived a long time after the Bible was written.”



*Martin Luther*

**Peasants:** Walk around, acting as if you are drunken. Let some fall down.

**Helper** (To Luther): “Martin Luther, do something! You are our priest! Those peasants get drunk and do any bad thing they want now, because of Tetzl!”

**Luther:** (Angrily) “Who is Tetzl?”

**Helper:** “He came from Rome to get money to build Saint Peter’s Cathedral for the Pope. He tells the people that if they give generously, then the church will grant them full pardon of all sins.”

**Luther:** “No! People cannot buy their salvation with money! God’s grace and forgiveness does not flow down to us from heaven through the Pope of Rome. I will write a protest and nail it to the door of the chapel for everyone to see”. (Pretend to write on a paper and nail it.)

**Helper:** Look at the paper. Then say, “I cannot understand a word of it. It is written in Latin!”

**Narrator:** “Someone copied Luther’s protest and printed it. Copies went all over Europe. Hear what a church official later told Luther.”

**Official:** (To Luther) “The Pope in Rome is furious. The Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire also demands that you renounce everything you wrote.”

**Luther:** “All that I wrote is from the Bible. I cannot renounce it.”

**Official:** “Then the Pope will exclude you from the church. And if you continue, the Emperor will burn you to death.”

**Luther:** “Hear what Jesus said in Mark 7:6-9:

‘Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far away from **me**.’ But in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.’ Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men. ... You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition.’”

**Narrator:** The authorities forced Luther to attend a meeting with the Emperor present.

**Soldiers:** Hold Luther’s arms and bring him to the Official.

**Official:** “We have copies of all your writings. You must renounce them. Now!”

**Luther:** “Unless you can show me my error from Scripture, I cannot deny the truth. Here I stand. May God help me!”

**Soldiers:** Shout things like “Kill him!” “Burn him in fire!” “Cut out his tongue.” Etc.

**Narrator:** Thank everyone who helped with the drama. Then **explain:** “After this trial, Luther’s friends hid him in a castle, so the Emperor could not kill him.”

“There he translated the Bible into the German language for the first time.”

“Believers in other countries followed Luther’s example and taught that God will lovingly save people who believe in Jesus.”