

HANDOUT FOR CONFIRMATION CLASS, OCTOBER 1, 2017

*Brief Overview of the Protestant Reformation and  
the viewing of the film, Luther, made in 2003, with Joseph Fiennes*

1. Before becoming a monk, Martin Luther obeyed his father's wishes, studying to become a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. On his way through a forest one day, a sudden storm came up and Luther thought he was going to be killed by lightning. Thinking he was being punished by God, he promised to \_\_\_\_\_ if he could just live.
3. Luther joined an order of \_\_\_\_\_ monks.
4. Martin Luther was very much aware of his failings/sins according to God's law; he knew he could never be good enough to earn salvation. He \_\_\_\_\_ God for creating him a sinner and then expecting him to be able to not sin.
5. Luther was struggling with what it meant to be in good relationship with God, so he was reassigned to teach a class in \_\_\_\_\_ at the university in \_\_\_\_\_. This was not a common class as Bibles were scarce, so not many people had read it.
6. While teaching the New Testament, especially Romans, Martin Luther learned that God makes us righteous solely through our \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ, and not through any worth attached to what we do. **All** are justified by God's \_\_\_\_\_ as a gift. This was astoundingly good news to Martin Luther!
7. Luther was upset that the people selling indulgences, a purchase of the forgiveness of sins by the Pope for a specific person, were frightening poor people into spending what money they had on something that \_\_\_\_\_ already gave to them as a gift.
8. Tradition holds that Luther, nailed his 95 Theses, or Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences to the Castle Church door in Wittenberg on \_\_\_\_\_.

9. With his 95 Theses, Luther wanted to bring this injustice to the attention of \_\_\_\_\_, thinking that he couldn't possibly condone this behavior. All Luther wanted to do was start a theological debate so the Church could initiate internal \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Martin Luther's ideas would not have become well known within the church or among the common people if it had not been for the invention of the \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Both the church and the Holy Roman Empire fought against the validity of Luther's ideas because they destabilized their \_\_\_\_\_, which, in large part, was propped up by the idea of the infallibility of canon law.
12. Luther's main argument in favor of his writings was that they were based solely on \_\_\_\_\_, not on church law or tradition.
13. Martin Luther's teaching of re-formation was highlighted by three differences from Catholic doctrine of the time: *Sola scriptura*, *Sola fide*, *Sola gratia*. This meant that reconciliation with God was achieved by \_\_\_\_\_ alone (\_\_\_\_\_ over tradition), by \_\_\_\_\_ alone (\_\_\_\_\_ over works) and by \_\_\_\_\_ alone (\_\_\_\_\_ over merit).
14. To make the Holy Scriptures available to everyone, Martin Luther translated the Bible into \_\_\_\_\_ and then had it printed, so that everyone could read it for themselves and hear what God was saying to them.
15. Luther changed the way people thought about their relationship with both God and with others. With their salvation being assured by the gift of God's grace, people were freed from being \_\_\_\_\_ on themselves to being able to reach out to others.
16. Luther taught that the scriptures are God's \_\_\_\_\_ . People should always be searching the scriptures for God's voice in their own context, so that the church may continually be re-formed.