The Vicar of Christ
Reformation Overview and Luther’s Story

I. Objective
In this lesson, we will learn about the impact of Martin Luther on the Reformation.

II. Comprehension Questions
1. According to Roman Catholic Tradition, who was the Vicar of Christ?

2. What was one of the lines of argument Jan Hus used to attack the Roman Catholic Church?

3. How did the Roman Catholic Church respond to Jan Hus’ complaint?

4. What event caused Luther to make a major adjustment in the course of his life?
5. What particularly strikes Luther about his pilgrimage to Rome in 1510?

6. How did the Roman Catholic Church justify the selling of indulgences?

7. Did Friedrich the Wise and Luther ever meet?

8. What major event occurred in 1519 and why was it so significant?

9. In 1520, Luther authored three major works, which together formed a protestant manifesto for the Reformation. What are they and what did they teach?

10. Who was the Luther of Switzerland?
III. Discussion Questions

1. After the Diet of Worms in 1520, for Luther’s own protection, Frederick the the Wise had him kidnapped. He was secretly held at the Wartburg Castle. While he was there, he translated the Bible into German. At the time of the Reformation, the Roman Catholic Church had not translated the Bible into the language of the common man. In contrast to the Roman Catholic Church, what theological differences drove Luther to translate the Bible into the vernacular? Today there are many English translations of the Bible and there is regular debate about which is best. What do you think is the biblical position on Bible translation? In the relatively recent history, theologians have learned that the original Greek text of the New Testament was actually written in the common trade language of the Roman Empire. How might this understanding of the original text of the New Testament shape our views on Bible translation?

- In contrast to the Roman Catholic Church, what theological differences drove Luther to translate the Bible into the vernacular?

- What do you think is the biblical position on Bible translation?

- How might this understanding of the original text of the New Testament shape our views on Bible translation?
2. Perhaps the most crucial question behind the Reformation was, “What is true and how do we know what is true?” Another way you might pose this question is, what is the ultimate authority on truth and how do we know this truth? The Roman Catholic Church said the Church was the ultimate authority and it is through the church that man comes to know what is true. The Reformers said God and his revelation contained in the Scriptures is the ultimate authority and it is through the Scriptures that a man comes to know what is true. Contrast some of the implications of the Roman Catholic and Reformed positions. The ultimate authority for our contemporary culture might be called autonomous reason or “to each his own.” In other words, every individual is his own ultimate authority on truth and he knows this truth by reason. Contrast the contemporary perspective on authority and knowledge with the Reformed view.

- Contrast some of the implications of the Roman Catholic and Reformed positions.

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<tr>
<th>Question</th>
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<th>Reformed</th>
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<td>How do we know that the Scriptures are true?</td>
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<td>How do I inherit eternal life?</td>
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<td>What is the relationship between the church and the Word of God?</td>
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<td>If there is error in the Word of God or the Church, how does man know?</td>
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- Contrast the contemporary perspective on authority and knowledge with the Reformed view.

### Ultimate Authority and Knowledge of the Truth

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### IV. For Further Study ...

1. Explore the various translation philosophies used in the different English Bible translations (ESV, NIV, and NASB).
2. Research and consider presuppositional apologetics and its assertions concerning the principium cognoscendi. How does this differ from the principium cognoscendi of Thomas Aquinas?
Priesthood of the Believer
The Five Solas of the Reformation

I. Objective
This lesson will give special attention to the impact of the Reformation as a rediscovery of the Word of God, differences in context and theology between Luther and Calvin as first and second generation reformers, the development of the five Solas and the doctrine of the Priesthood of the Believer.

II. Comprehension Questions
1. Which denominations existed before the Protestant Reformation?

2. What was the aim of the Protestant Reformation? Was it to create denominations?

3. What did Luther and Calvin agree on?

4. What did Luther and Calvin disagree on?

5. What contextual elements contributed to their different approaches?
   • Luther:
• Calvin:

6. What are indulgences?

7. What are the most basic doctrines of Calvinism?

8. What were the five Solas of the Reformation and how were they distinguished from the Roman Catholic alternative?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Doctrine</th>
<th>Roman Catholicism</th>
<th>Reformation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Authoritative Standard</td>
<td>__________, the __________ of the ______, and the</td>
<td>Sola __________ - __________ alone is the standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justification</td>
<td>Justification is by __________ and ______, ______</td>
<td>Sola __________ - Justification is by ______ alone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salvation and Christ</td>
<td>Salvation is by Christ and __________</td>
<td>Solus __________ - By ______, alone we are saved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salvation and Grace</td>
<td>Salvation is by grace and __________</td>
<td>Sola __________ - Salvation is by ______ alone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glory</td>
<td>Glory to God and __________</td>
<td>Soli Deo __________ - To ________ alone be the ______</td>
</tr>
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</table>

9. What was the legacy Calvin had on the Reformation of the European Church?

III. Discussion Questions

1. In many ways, the Reformation was a rediscovery of the Word of God. What historical circumstances contributed to its rediscovery and in what ways did it change Medieval Roman Catholicism? What place does Scripture play in your own theological tradition and personal life?
• Historical Circumstances:

• Impact on Roman Catholicism:

• Influence Today:
  • Are the Scriptures the ultimate authority on church and life in your church?

  • Do you look to God through his revelation in the Scriptures as the authoritative guide for faith and life personally? In what ways does your dependence on the Scriptures manifest itself in your daily/weekly practice?

2. While the initial aim of Calvin and his fellow reformers was to reform, rather than abandon the Roman Catholic Church, they eventually took a stand on two fundamental points:

• Rome was guilty of (1) transferring glory that belonged to God to creatures, and (2) corrupting the ground of true religion. According to Calvin, the ground of true religion is a right relationship with God and that right relation can only come through the obedience and death of Christ imputed to his people and received by faith alone. In what ways do you see
the continuing impact of this stand in contemporary Christian culture? In what ways do you see it distorted?

- Impact:

- Distortion:

3. One of the products of the Reformation was the Priesthood of the Believer. In what ways has this doctrine had a positive and negative impact on the church?

- Positive:

- Negative:

IV. For Further Study ...

1. Research the practices the Roman Catholic Church used to sell indulgences and how the money was used.

2. In what ways are the five Solas of the Reformation alive or dead in your own theological tradition?
Calvin’s Curse

Calvin’s Life and the Spread of Reformed Theology

I. Objective
In this lesson, we will give attention to the historical circumstances surrounding Calvin’s family, his youth, and conversion. We will also consider how he found his way to Geneva and into a leadership role there and in the Reformation at large.

II. Comprehension Questions
1. Where was John Calvin born in 1509?

2. What kind of family was Calvin raised in and how did this impact his training and relationship to the church?

3. What happened to Calvin’s father and what impact did that have on Calvin’s relationship with the church?

4. How was Calvin converted and how did it impact his life?
   • Conversion:

   • Impact:
5. Why did the Roman Catholic Church persecute people?

6. What circumstances brought Calvin to Geneva in 1536?

7. What was Geneva like when Calvin arrived?

8. What were Calvin’s intentions in Geneva and how did Farel change his perspective?

9. What happened to Calvin in Strasbourg?

10. What was Calvin’s perspective on preaching and how often did he preach?

11. What was Calvin’s school in Geneva nicknamed and why?
III. Discussion Questions

1. Calvin and Bucer always believed that the Lutheran and Swiss Reformed churches could be united into a single church. They did not believe the issues that divided them were sufficiently important to continue that division. Calvin wanted to see the whole Church of God united around the Word of God and believing the clear straightforward truths of the gospel. In a day of unprecedented denominationalism, do you think there is a place for a renewed emphasis on unity? If so, what can we learn from Calvin and Bucer about how that might take shape? Consider their historical circumstances, their attitude toward unity, and what they were willing to divide over.

- The Reformers’ Historical circumstances and trajectory:

- Attitude and orientation:

- When to divide:
2. The Reformed Church in Calvin’s Geneva fostered an aggressive missional spirit. Do you think this missional spirit is as vibrant today as it was then? If not, why? Consider differences in historical circumstance and culture.

- Missional Spirit Today:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historical Circumstances in Contrast</th>
<th>Reformation</th>
<th>Today</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Church and Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Relationship between Religion and Life</td>
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<td>Civil Governments and Heresy</td>
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<td>Persecution and War</td>
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<td>Missional Vigor</td>
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<td>Redemptive Historical Context</td>
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IV. For Further Study ...

1. Research and consider how Calvin’s own conversion may have influenced his doctrine of election.

2. Calvin considers his time in Strasbourg as one of the happiest times of his life. Research and consider how Calvin’s relationship to Idelette de Bure may have affected his temperament?
The Cross & The Crown
Reformation Implications - Church and State

I. **Objective**

In this lesson, we will consider Geneva's struggle to discern a right relationship between church and state and how Calvin, the statesman, pioneered a new and lasting model of church-state relations.

II. **Comprehension Questions**

1. When did the citizens of Geneva vote to become a Protestant city-state?

2. What was the basic message implied by the Genevan vote to break with the Roman Catholic Church?

3. What were some of the competing influences on the mission of Farel and the Genevan Protestants?

4. What about Geneva's newfound Protestantism especially frustrated Savoy and what did they do about it?
5. If someone failed to attend church, what institution held the person responsible and why?

6. In Calvin’s Geneva, which institution had supreme authority: the civil magistrate or the church?

7. What is Erastianism and was Calvin for or against this practice?

8. What was the Roman Catholic position on Erastianism?

9. How did Calvin’s theological belief in man as a fallen creature influence his ideas about government?

10. How did Calvin’s distinction between church and state promote business?
III. Discussion Questions

1. The city of Geneva’s allegiance to Protestantism brought along with it challenges and competing influences from within and without. In what ways is your church suffering similar afflictions in its standing for the gospel? Are there any lessons we might be able to take from the history of the Genevan Reformation?

- Are there any ways in which your church’s standing for the gospel has been frustrated from within or without?
  - Within:
  - Without:

- Are there any lessons we might be able to take from the history of the Genevan Reformation?
2. As the Reformation took root and matured in Geneva, Calvin was forced to explore the appropriate relationship between the church, civil magistrate, and culture. Are there any ways in which the church today struggles to draw clear lines of separation, cooperation, and authority between these entities? In what ways have you seen these struggles manifest themselves in your own church? Are there any ways in which Calvin’s careful negotiation of these issues might guide us today?

• Are there any ways in which the church today struggles to draw clear lines of separation, cooperation, and authority between these entities?

• In what ways have you seen these struggles manifest themselves in your own church?

• Are there any ways in which Calvin’s careful negotiation of these issues might guide us today?

IV. For Further Study ...

1. How many Presbyterians signed the Declaration of Independence?

2. Identify similarities between the presbyterian form of church government and the civil government of the United States of America?
City on a Hill
Geneva, Servetus, and Religious Liberty

I. Objective
In this lesson, we will be acquainted with the Genevan landscape, Calvin’s San Pierre Cathedral, the Miguel Servetus affair, and the struggle to work out a right relationship between church and state.

II. Comprehension Questions
1. What was the population of Geneva when Calvin lived there and what is it now?

2. What is the history of the San Pierre Cathedral in which Calvin taught and preached?

3. Who was Miguel Servetus? How did he come to his theology and what was heretical about it?

4. Why did Miguel Servetus go to Geneva?
5. What happened when Servetus arrived in Geneva and how was Calvin involved?

6. How did Miguel Servetus’ death impact religious liberty?

7. How did William Penn advance religious liberty in what he called his “holy experiment” in Philadelphia?

8. Do Calvin and the Reformed tradition have a perfectly holy record?

9. Who was the father of the religious liberty movement?
III. Discussion Questions

1. Church architecture and design decisions in Medieval and Reformation Europe were exceedingly important. Attempt to trace the theological value of some of the changes Calvin made to the cathedral in Geneva. What do you think are the major theological themes that inform the architecture and design in your church?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Roman Catholicism</th>
<th>Calvin</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The location of the Alter and the Pulpit</td>
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<td>Icons and Artifacts</td>
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<td>The Cross</td>
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- What do you think are the major theological themes that inform the architecture and design in your church?
2. Some consider the Miguel Servetus affair the black eye on Calvin’s record. Some of the Reformed and Presbyterian churches were guilty of supporting slavery in America or abstaining from the debate. These events highlight the reality of how churches, and their leaders and congregants sometimes engage in sinful activities. Relative to theology, how should we understand these sorts of events in the history of the Reformed and Presbyterian traditions? What can we learn from Calvin and history about how we should respond to these events? Unbelievers regularly use these sorts of events to reject the Christian faith. How might we engage this issue?

- Relative to theology, how should we understand these sorts of events in the history of the Reformed and Presbyterian traditions?

- What can we learn from Calvin and history about how we should respond to these events?

- Unbelievers regularly use these sorts of events to reject the Christian faith. How might we engage this issue?

IV. For Further Study ...

1. Search for images of the Notre Dame Du Haut in Ronchamp, France. Attempt to trace the theological significance of the various architectural and design features of this church.

2. Investigate what Calvin called the marks of the church. How do you think the marks could help focus the church’s activity in the world.
Upon This Rock
Scotland and John Knox

I. Objective
In this lesson, we will give attention to the expansion and impact of John Calvin’s theology in Scotland through the work of the great reformer, John Knox. We will also consider the rise and decline of Presbyterianism in Scotland.

II. Comprehension Questions
1. Where and when was John Knox born?

2. Who triggered the Reformation in Scotland?

3. What happened to Knox after he was taken prisoner at the siege of Saint Andrews Castle in 1547?

4. Where did Knox go after he was freed from the galleys and what did he learn there?

5. What was the name of Knox’s most notorious treatise and what historical circumstances likely affected his views?
6. What impact did Knox's treatise have on England and how did the civil authorities respond?

7. What change did Knox make to the Saint Giles Cathedral and how did this reflect his theology of worship?

8. In 1547, Knox was sentenced to the galleys by a French Roman Catholic monarch. Upon his return to Scotland from Geneva, he was greeted by an English Roman Catholic monarch. What vow did Knox famously make and was he successful? What happened to the church in Scotland after his death?

9. What was the single most significant event in Scottish church history after the Reformation?

10. When Knox comes onto the scene in Scotland, it is the most illiterate country in Europe. How did Knox change this sad statistic? What unintended consequence also resulted from these reforms?

11. In contrast to Rome, what did the Reformers say was the rock upon which Christ would build his church?
### III. Discussion Questions

1. The two reformers who triggered the Reformation in Scotland before Knox were in their early twenties and thirties. Calvin was only 27 when he published the first edition of his Institutes and Luther was only 34 when he nailed his 95 Theses to the Castle Church of Wittenberg. In contrast, modern youth are leaving the church at an unprecedented rate and a growing number of young adults are choosing to live with their parents. Is there anything we can learn from the youth of the Reformers that could help us stave off this trend? Consider differences in expectations, training and education, culture, church, and family.

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<th>Feature</th>
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<tr>
<td>Expectations</td>
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<td>Training and Education</td>
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<td>Family</td>
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2. John Knox and the Reformation in Scotland is a story of triumph and tragedy. At its height, the Church of Scotland sent missionaries around the world and established presbyterianism in places as far away as the United States and Korea. What can we learn from the sad decline of the Church in Scotland (consider historical circumstances)? In what ways might our contemporary church be following along the same path? What can we do to revitalize the church?

- What prompted the Scottish decline?

- In what ways might our contemporary church be following along the same path?

- What can we do to help revitalize the church?

IV. For Further Study ...

1. Research and consider the relationship between the church and state in Scotland. Are there any lessons here for American church-state relations?

2. Are there any ways in which the structure of Scottish Presbyterianism differs from the structure in Clavin’s Geneva or modern American Presbyterianism? If so, what do you think influenced the differences and how do they affect church practice?
Magnum Opus
The Institutes of the Christian Religion

I. Objective

In this lesson, we will explore the contours of Calvin’s most influential work and magnum opus, The Institutes of the Christian Religion.

II. Comprehension Questions

1. When were the first and last editions of the Institutes written?

2. To whom was the Institutes addressed and why?

3. What are the major sections of the Institutes and what was it patterned after?

4. For Calvin, what is the chief end of man?
5. According to the Institutes, how can we truly know God?

6. What does Calvin mean by providence in Book 1?

7. What is meant by the great story of redemption in Book 2?

8. According to Book 3, what role does the Holy Spirit play in the application of the benefits of Christ’s redemptive work to believers?

9. What is the basis for how Calvin understands what the Church is supposed to look like?

10. Which early church father did Calvin reference the most frequently?
III. Discussion Questions

1. One of Calvin’s major insights had to do with his understanding of knowledge. He said, “All knowledge that we have is based upon God and man. If we truly know ourselves, we must know God. To truly know God, we must know ourselves. We can never truly know anything rightly until we know him. We must know God and we can only truly know him through the Scriptures.” If Calvin is right, what is necessary for man to know anything rightly? How can man know God rightly? Consider the implications of Calvin’s view of knowledge. If you find yourself in a disagreement with another Christian, where must you go to see how to resolve it? If you find yourself in a disagreement with an unbeliever, where must you go to see how to resolve it? We tend to rebut attacks against the faith by leaving the Christian ground (the Scriptures) to debate the issue on unbelieving ground. Discuss how Calvin’s understanding of knowledge would reshape how we defend the faith.

• If Calvin is right, what is necessary for man to know anything rightly?

• How can man know God rightly?

• If you find yourself in a disagreement with another Christian, where must you go to see how to resolve it?

• If you find yourself in a disagreement with an unbeliever, where must you go to resolve it?

• We tend to rebut attacks against the faith by leaving the Christian ground (the Scriptures) to debate the issue on unbelieving ground. Discuss how Calvin’s understanding of knowledge would reshape how we defend the faith.
2. Calvin’s Institutes continues to serve as a staple systematic theology in seminaries and churches across the world, but Calvin’s Institutes was addressed to King Francis I to persuade him to halt the persecution of protestants in France. We do not often think of referencing a systematic theology as our source for apologetics and evangelism, but Calvin’s Institutes was that practical and persuasive. All of our theological doctrines are so practical. Consider how Calvin describes the doctrine of the future life. How does Calvin’s exposition reshape how you live now?

• “Whatever be the kind of tribulation with which we are afflicted, we should always consider the end of it to be, that we may be trained to despise the present, and thereby stimulated to aspire to the future life. For since God well knows how strongly we are inclined by nature to a slavish love of this world, in order to prevent us from clinging too strongly to it, he employs the fittest reason for calling us back, and shaking off our lethargy. Every one of us, indeed, would be thought to aspire and aim at heavenly immortality during the whole course of his life. For we would be ashamed in no respect to excel the lower animals; whose condition would not be at all inferior to ours, had we not a hope of immortality beyond the grave. But when you attend to the plans, wishes, and actions of each, you see nothing in them but the earth. Hence our stupidity, our minds being dazzled with the glare of wealth, power, and honours, that they can see no farther. The heart also, engrossed with avarice, ambition, and lust, is weighed down and cannot rise above them. In short, the whole soul, ensnared by the allurements of the flesh, seeks its happiness on the earth. To meet this disease, the Lord makes his people sensible of the vanity of the present life, by a constant proof of its miseries. Thus, that they may not promise themselves deep and lasting peace in it, he often allows them to be assailed by war, tumult, or rapine, or to be disturbed by other injuries. That they may not long with too much eagerness after fleeting and fading riches, or rest in those which they already possess, he reduces them to want, or, at least, restricts them to a moderate allowance, at one time by exile, at another by sterility, at another by fire, or by other means. That they may not indulge too complacently in the advantages of married life, he either vexes them by the misconduct of their partners, or humbles them by the wickedness of their children, or afflicts them by bereavement. But if in all these he is indulgent to them, lest they should either swell with vain-glory, or be elated with confidence, by diseases and dangers he sets palpably before them how unstable and evanescent are all the advantages competent to mortals. We duly profit by the discipline of the cross, when we learn that this life, estimated in itself, is restless, troubled, in numberless ways wretched, and plainly in no respect happy; that what are estimated its blessings are uncertain, fleeting, vain, and vitiated by a great admixture of evil. From this we conclude, that all we have to seek or hope for here is contest; that when we think of the crown we must raise our eyes to heaven. For we must hold, that our mind never rises seriously to desire and aspire after the future, until it has learned to despise the present life.” - 3.9.1.

• Consider how Calvin describes the doctrine of the future life. How does Calvin’s exposition reshape how you live now?

IV. For Further Study ...

1. Explore how the structure of the Institutes, namely the movement from God to man, reinforces Calvin’s understanding of knowledge.

2. Try reading the Institutes devotionally alongside your daily Bible reading. Journal how this practice enriches your Bible reading.
Set in Stone

The Reformation Wall

I. Objective

In this lesson, by observing the symbolism and design of the Reformation Wall in Geneva, we will give attention to the impact of the Genevan Reformers on the spread of Reformed theology across Europe and on to America.

II. Comprehension Questions

1. What was the Reformation Wall designed to do?

2. What is the phrase engraved at the top of the wall and how is it an apt motto for what the Reformation accomplished?

3. What are the signature contributions of each of the four Reformers positioned at the center of the wall?

4. What two foundational events occur in 1559?
5. What occupies the central and most foundational position of the Reformation Wall?

6. Why was the Lord’s Prayer written in French and how is this significant?

7. What was the Edict of Nantes and why was it significant?

8. Who were William the Silent and Frederick William?

9. What is the significance of the phrase, “public instruction obligatory”?

10. What major contribution did Roger Williams bring to America that he received from Calvin?
# III. Discussion Questions

1. Wherever the Reformed faith has gone, it has committed itself to education. When the people of Geneva formally adopted the principles of the Reformation, they also instituted public education. Jesus called his church to make disciples or “learners” of all nations. Consider how the Reformation and contemporary concepts of discipleship may differ and what we might learn from the former.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discipleship Then and Now</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Feature</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>What does the phrase in Matthew 28:19, “make disciples,” mean?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the purpose of the public education system?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the place of the church in education?</td>
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<tr>
<td>What does it mean to be a disciple of Christ?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Discipleship Then and Now

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Reformation</th>
<th>Today</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>With respect to education, where does a man find life and freedom?</td>
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2. It may be hard for Americans to imagine, but prior to the Protestant Reformation, religious liberty was a foreign concept. Many of the most violent struggles in this period of history were a result of an inseparable union between church and state. When kings, queens, and governors were converted, the entire country was forced to follow. Whenever these transitions faltered, widespread war and bloodshed followed. How do you think the Reformation principles of Sola Scriptura and the Priesthood of the Believer may have helped promote religious liberty? How do Americans view the separation of church and state and the right to religious liberty? How might the historical roots of these doctrines reshape our understanding of the intent behind these political ideals?

- How do you think the Reformation principles of Sola Scriptura and the Priesthood of the Believer may have helped promote religious liberty?
  - Sola Scriptura:
  
  - Priesthood of the Believer:

- How do Americans view the separation of church and state and the right to religious liberty?

- How might the historical roots of these doctrines reshape our understanding of the intent behind these political ideals?
IV. For Further Study ...

1. What were the contours of the relationship between church and state in Calvin’s Geneva?

2. Explore the curriculum and mission of the public education system in Calvin’s Geneva.
The Enlightened Ones
The Spanish Reformation

I. Objective
In this lesson, we will explore the Reformation in Spain and the Inquisition that sought to stamp it out.

II. Comprehension Questions
1. How did Erasmus influence the Reformation in Spain?

2. What was Cardinal Cisneros’s greatest accomplishment?

3. Who were the “Alumbrados” or “Enlightened Ones” and why did they pose such a danger to the established church?

4. What was a “Beata” and what role did they play in the Spanish Reformation?
6. How long did the Spanish Inquisition last?

7. What was the purpose of the Council of Trent?

8. What kinds of books were listed on the Index of Forbidden Books?

9. What was the main purpose of the Spanish Inquisition?
III. Discussion Questions

1. It may sound strange to our modern ears, but one of the first initiatives of the Spanish Inquisition was to print a list of forbidden books. At the heart of the Protestant Reformation was the Word of God. It is a telling irony, that the Christian Church, the people of the book, had deteriorated so far that its troubles arose from the book and its method of rooting out dissenters was to destroy the book. Countless Protestant Reformers gave their lives to get the Bible and other Christian resources into the hands of the people. Today, censorship continues in many countries, but in the West, widespread freedom, security, and the absence of persecution, has produced an unprecedented complacency. Are there any ways in which you or your church struggle with complacency? We have more excellent Bible translations and Christian resources today than ever before. Are there any ways you and your church might be able to make better use of these treasures?

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2. Church reformers inspired lay priests to fan out across Spain. In turn, they preached to influential nobles who promote the Reformation in their regions. The spread of the Protestant Reformation in Spain was due in large part to pastors preaching the gospel from the Word of God and laymen carrying that Word forward into every area and relationship of their own lives. Consider what you and your church might be able to learn from this simple approach to the propagation of the faith. Does your church concern itself primarily with the preaching of the gospel or with other activities? How involved are your members in the proclamation of the gospel? How does your church relate with the establishment in your region? Do the social and political structures in your region promote or hinder the proclamation of the gospel?

* Does your church concern itself primarily with the preaching of the gospel or with other activities?

* How involved are your members in the proclamation of the gospel?

* How does your church relate with the establishment in your region? Do the social and political structures in your region promote or hinder the proclamation of the gospel?

IV. For Further Study ...

1. The Spanish Inquisition was brutal. Many people lost their lives, but others managed to flee to northern Europe where they translated the Bible and Reformed literature into Spanish. Research the contributions of Juan de Valdes, Casiodoro de Reina, and Francisco de Encinas.
2. Find a facsimile or images of Cardinal Cisneros’s Polyglot Bible. Explore who and how this amazing tool influenced the theology of the Reformers.

3. Many of the Spanish exiles first fled to Geneva, others to Strasbourg, and others to Frankfurt. There they met the great Reformers. Draw a concept map showing who went where and who they met while in exile.
The Martyrs

I. Objective
In this lesson, we will learn about the role of martyrdom in the Reformation.

II. Opening Prayer

III. Video and Comprehension Questions
Encourage students to work on the comprehension questions as they watch the video. Ensure you review the answers together before you move into the Discussion questions.

1. What is a martyr?

2. What historical precedent do we have in Christianity for martyrdom?

3. Who were the Waldensians?

4. What role did the Waldensians play in the Reformation?

5. Who were the Huguenots? Who were their influences? In what ways were they persecuted?
6. Who was the best known Huguenot martyr? How was he martyred?

7. Who were the Covenanters?

8. What is ironic about the fact that it was the Church of England that persecuted the Covenanters?

9. Why was William Tyndale martyred?

IV. Discussion Questions

1. Read Hebrews 11:35b-40. What types of suffering did martyrs in the Bible endure? How does this set our expectations for what Christians should expect to experience from the world around them?

2. What does it mean to be a martyr in the West in the 21st century? Does it necessitate dying for the faith? In what other ways can one be a martyr? What attitude should Christians have in witnessing their faith (cf., 1 Peter 3:15-17)?
V. Closing Prayer

VI. For Further Study ...

1. Explore the causes behind the St. Bartholomew’s Day Massacre. How many Protestants were killed? Why were they slaughtered?

2. Research the story behind the writing of John Foxe’s Acts and Monuments. Why did Foxe write it? See if you can find pictures of wood-cuts from the book online. What impact would these images have had on the populous in the 16th century?
Liberty and Justice for All
European Reformation in the New World

I. Objective
In this lesson, we will explore how the European Reformation shaped religious liberty in the New World.

II. Comprehension Questions
1. What happened when different people start reading the Bible for themselves?

2. Who started the Methodist Church and what tradition did it come from?

3. What idea developed in France to handle the theological divisions in the country?

4. How did some people find freedom from persecution?
5. What are some of the regions where Roman Catholics settled in the New World?

6. Who were the Congregationalists and where did they settle?

7. How did William Penn become a Quaker?

8. What was the Constitution of the proprietary colony of William Penn (Pennsylvania)?

9. What is religious liberty and how did it come about?

10. What is the first amendment of the United States Constitution?
III. Discussion Questions

1. It has long been the story in the United States, that the Christian Church is an intolerant place. Are there any ways in which the Christian Church is intolerant? Are there any ways in which the Christian Church should be intolerant? What are some of the implications of a rigid intolerance in the Christian Church?

• Are there any ways in which the Christian Church is intolerant?
• Are there any ways in which the Christian Church should be intolerant?
• What are some of the implications of a rigid intolerance in the Christian Church?
2. Since Columbus’ discovery of America, it has served as a religious refuge. Many of the earliest settlers in the New World traveled to this distant land to escape persecution. For these refugees, the New World represented an incredible level of religious tolerance. In what ways was Europe hostile to religious differences? What are some of the things about the New World that made it more accommodating? In what ways is the modern United States shifting back toward the intolerance people fled from? Is there anything Christians can do to help stem this shift toward intolerance in American culture?

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IV. For Further Study ...

1. What ministers signed the Declaration of Independence?

2. What were some of the earliest Protestant denominations in the New World and where did they settle?