

Martin Luther and the Beginnings of the Protestant Reformation (31 October 1517)

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CXK9NNp1yk4>

1. Why was the medieval church in need of reform?

~ Think about

- Relics
- Indulgences
- Purgatory

2. In which way did Romans 1:16-17 speak to Luther? In Luther's 'Tower experience' he felt himself to be born again. Share with your group when this happened for you?

~ Think about

- How we become 'righteous' before God (v17) and how this differed from Luther's attempts to become righteous.
- The circumstances around your experiencing peace and forgiveness with God. Were you seeking God, or did God take you by surprise? What about John Wesley's conversion? (he felt his heart strangely warmed)

3. What do you know about Luther's world that aided and abetted the Reformation?

~ Think about

- The Renaissance. The re-birth of learning.
- Humanism. Freedom of ideas and conscience.
- Nationalism. Desire for independence from the Roman Catholic Church who ruled the Empire.
- Corruption in the Church. Resentment of papal authority.
- Printing Press. Widespread circulation of ideas.

4. What is Luther's legacy? What is the relevance of the Protestant Reformation for today? How would your spiritual life/your church be different had the Reformation not happened?

~ Think about

- Scripture alone (2 Tim. 3:16)
- Faith alone (Eph. 2:8-10)
- Priesthood of all believers (1 Pet 2:5)