

# The Challenge of Reformation

KWL Digital Enrichment Resource

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Teacher Introduction

Instructions and Examples

Appendix (content unpacked)



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## Teacher Introduction

**1.**  
This teacher resource is linked to Year 10 To Know Worship and Love, Chapter 3: The Reformation and the Catholic Church.

### **2. Background**

The Church has always had the duty of scrutinizing the signs of the times and of interpreting them in the light of the Gospel. The Church in the Modern World p. 4

The Church, which understands itself as a dynamic mission furthering the work of Jesus Christ, has encountered some difficult eras as it attempts to study and interpret the times.

The history of the Catholic Church may be narrated in general terms of challenge, response and growth. The Reformation caused a major revolution in the Church: the challenge was severe, the outcome decisive. Nonetheless the Church forged a clear response and the age following the sixteenth century was one of resurgent growth and development. This pattern was repeated again with the Second Vatican Council's response to the challenges of the early 20th century.

Martin Luther challenged the Church to examine its teachings, practice and administration. His departure from the Church activated the Protestant Reformation. Pope Paul III responded to the signs of the times and convoked the Council of Trent, which addressed many of the questions raised by the Reformers

Teachers are encouraged to lead students to consider the Catholic Church not as immovable, monolithic institution but one, which responds to challenges and fosters growth in the Christian endeavor. Students are encouraged to do the same: explore the signs of the kingdom and signs of the times in their own lives and forge a response

### **3. Structure of resource**

This resource allows students to explore a timeline of Church history and place the challenge of the Reformation within a broader context. They can swipe along the timeline, which gives the background of the Church in the Middle Ages, and students can click on icons to gain a deeper understanding. The icons are:

- Exploration and Conquest - which fostered the spreading of the Gospel
- Catholic Leaders - the growth of Religious Orders
- Catholic Scholars of the Middle Ages - shows the thinking and development of theological debate and discussion
- Catholic Wounds - times when the Church has stumbled in its teaching and practice

The hourglass icon allows students to see the key events which specifically led to the Reformation.



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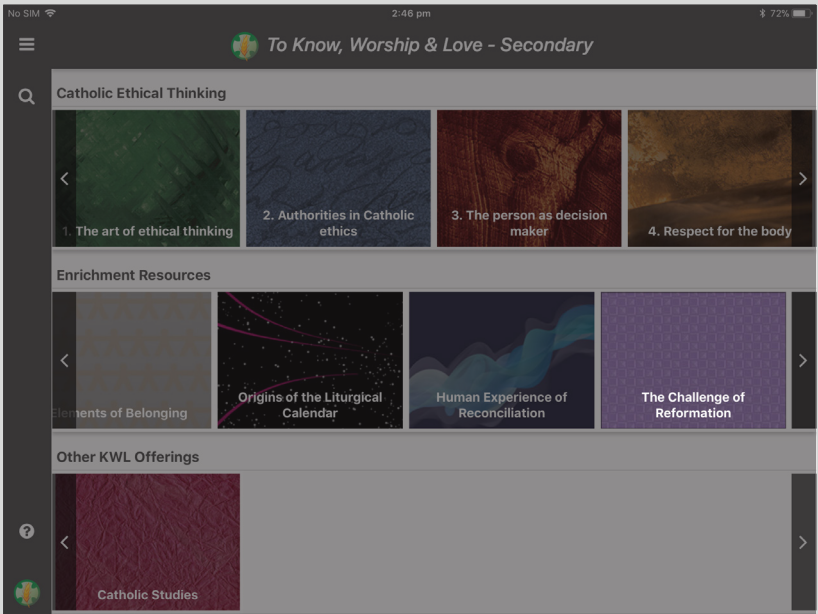
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# Enrichment Resource:The Challenge of Reformation

## Instructions and Examples

### Navigation: Link Locations

The resource can be accessed via the KWL Home Page, Year 10,3.6 The who was Martain Luther?



### Navigation: Within the Resource

To navigate scroll and select icons on the timeline.



To navigate within one of the tours, select the white arrows.



## Appendix (content Unpacked)



### Explore a period in time

#### 1. 1280

In the Middle Ages the Catholic Church was the centre of life for most people in Europe.

From king to the peasant, people prayed to God for guidance, help and eternal salvation when they died.

In this era the Church was very powerful and built many great cathedrals for worship.

There also flourished hundreds of monasteries where the poor sought help when they were sick or needed food. People looked up to the Church.

However, challenges for the Church began to emerge in this time.

*What role does the Church play in people's lives today?*

#### 2. 1315

By the 14th Century some Bishops and Cardinals, and certain Popes, began to take advantage of their power and lived with great wealth.

They took Church taxes, lived in luxury and some even fathered children.

The focus of these corrupt clerics was on politics

and power, not on spreading God's word or modeling the Christian life.

In the later Middle Ages the Church was far from stable.

*Have there been other times in the Church's history when it seems to have lost its way?*

#### 3. 1345

In 1347 a merchant ship arrived in the Italian trading port of Genoa with cargo from Asia. Along with fabric, rugs, jewels and spices the cargo also contained some black rats.

On these rats were fleas which carried a deadly virus.

This plague - the Black Death - was responsible for the loss of nearly half the people of Europe at this time.

The disease spread rapidly through Italy, France, Spain, Germany, Scandinavia and Russia. Whole towns were left empty because the plague had killed them all.

The disease could come upon people in a matter of hours and kill in a few days. Many people thought this was a punishment from God.

*Why was this a challenge for the Church?*

*Here the sickness began in both men and women with swelling in the groin and armpits. The lumps varied in size, some reaching the size of an ordinary apple and others that of an egg, and the people commonly called them gavoccioli. Having begun in these two parts of the body, the gavoccioli soon began to*

*appear at random all over the body. After this point the disease started to alter in nature, with black or livid spots appearing on the arms, the thighs, everywhere. Sometimes they were large and well spaced, other times small and numerous. These were a certain sign of impending death, but so was the swelling.*

*What impact have diseases like Ebola had on communities today? Is God to blame?*

Giovanni Boccaccio (1313-1375) Introduction to The Decameron Boccaccio lived through the plague and wrote this description shortly thereafter.

#### 4. 1390

Many priests died during this time and new clerics were quickly ordained to replace them.

Some of these priests were trained in haste and did not always prove to be good spiritual leaders.

Many senior Church officials prized beautiful art works over ministry to the needy. Michaelangelo (1475-1564) and Botticelli (1445-1516), among others, were sought out for their artistic brilliance.

*What does Pope Francis say about the wealth of the Church and the poor of the Church?*

#### 5. 1410

Some Christians in this era, fearful of God's punishment, turned to fervent prayer and special devotions.

Intercessory prayer, for Mary and the saints to plead for people, flourished at this time.

*Do you pray to a special saint, or Mary as well as God?*



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The veneration of Saint's Relics grew and many Christians sought Indulgences to lessen their time in Purgatory after death.

## 6. 1500-30

Some Church leaders took advantage of this prevalent fear of punishment in the afterlife and began selling Indulgences to remit God's penalty. **Explore Indulgences - 6 click through menu's (See Page 12).**

During the early 1500s, the German Dominican Johann Tetzel (1465-1519) was placed in charge of the campaign to sell Indulgences in Germany.

The money raised was for the building of St Peter's Basilica in Rome.

The poor had little knowledge of this; some sought to buy their salvation.

*"As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, The soul from purgatory springs".*

*This alleged saying encouraged people to buy indulgences*

## 7. 1500-30

The Augustinian priest Martin Luther (1483-1546) became professor of Scripture in Wittenberg, Germany.

By 1517, he was very concerned about aspects of the Catholic Church and especially the scandalous sale of Indulgences.

He believed that people were relying too heavily on external practices to guarantee salvation.

On 31st October, 1517 Luther nailed a list of 95

Theses (points), to the doors of the castle Church at Wittenberg in protest against the Church.

Martin Luther loved his Church and wanted to help steer it back onto the right path to God and Jesus.

*What questions do I have about the Church today?*

*When do I feel I have strayed from God's path?*

*What do I do?*

## 8. 1500-30

The 95 Theses lead to people beginning to question the Church's practices and especially the selling of Indulgences.

In 1519, Luther wrote to Pope Leo X assuring him it was not his intention to question the authority of the Pope or the Church.

Despite this many Cardinals and Bishops were worried. Pope Leo X though initially not worried eventually listened to the concerns and summoned Luther to answer heresy charges.

*Explore Link on Pope Leo X (See Page 12)*

*Explore Link on what heresy means (See Page 12)*

## 9. 1500-30

Luther became more and more convinced that the pope and his councils were not the final authorities - only Scripture was infallible.

Luther went to Augsburg, Germany, to meet the Pope's representative Cardinal Cajetan to argue his case.

Although Cardinal Cajetan agreed that the selling of Indulgences should be condemned, he was unconvinced by Luther's other arguments and recommended him for a heresy trial.

These were dangerous days for Luther who returned to Wittenburg to teach under the protection of Duke Frederick of Saxony.

Martin Luther had many followers embraced his writings:

1. The Bible is the only authoritative rule of faith - not bishops, Pope or the Tradition of the Church
2. People are justified/made good by faith alone, (not by good deeds or indulgences)
3. Only two sacraments were instituted by Christ: - Baptism and The Eucharist
4. Priesthood of all believers - not just ordained men

## 10. 1500-30

On 3rd January, 1521 Martin Luther was **excommunicated** by Pope Leo X. Though he was commanded to reject his teachings he refused to do so.

With an **excommunication** edict and threat of punishment over his head, Luther fled into hiding for a year.

During this time he wanted to give lay people better access to the scriptures by his own translation of the Bible into German. His followers grew and his teachings gradually



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gained acceptance. Luther came out of hiding, left the Catholic Church and in 1525 married Katherine Bora.

*Click on words Excommunication for explanation (See Page 12)*

## 12. 1545

As Lutheranism began to grow in Germany conflict arose between Catholics still loyal to Rome and the followers of this protest movement: They came to be known as Protestants.

Following Luther's stance against Rome other groups began to question Christian beliefs and their relationship with Papal authority.

New denominations were formed such as the Calvinist, Anglican and Presbyterian Communities.

*This is where we could click onto the cell image of the emergence of new traditions.*

Luther continued writing and preaching until he died in 1546..

## 13. The Council of Trent

In 1536 Pope Paul 111 was appointed and called an ecumenical Council in order to meet the grave need for reform. His intention was also to clarify Catholic teaching that was under attack from the Reformers. The Council of Trent met in 3 sessions from 1545 to 1563 and reaffirmed:

1. Faith is based on the Bible and Tradition passed down from apostles
2. The Church is the final interpreter of the Bible

for Christians

3. Salvation comes from both and inspired by that faith
4. All seven sacraments are upheld as true
5. Bishops must live within their diocese
6. Priests are to be celibate

Catholics and Protestants remained divided, but this Council in response to the challenges posed by Martin Luther clarified church doctrine and renewed discipline.

## PRE-REFORMATION CATHOLIC STORY

### 12<sup>TH</sup> to 16<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY



## EXPLORATION AND CONQUEST PRE-REFORMATION EUROPEAN EXPLORATION

The European exploration of the world in the Middle Ages galvanized anew the Church's proclamation of the Gospel message to the nations.

- The travels of the Venetian Marco Polo (c.1254-1324) to China offered some first accounts of the Far East and prompted a wider worldview in 1290's.
- Prince Henry, the Portuguese navigator (1394-1460) promoted the exploration of the west African coast and broadened the map of the

known world.

- Several years after Prince Henry, Bartolomeu Diaz rounded the Cape of Good Hope in 1487 and opened the sea routes to the East. At the end of the Fifteenth Century Europeans were circumnavigating the world.
- The Genovese sailor Christopher Columbus sought to reach Asia by travelling westward in 1492. His discovery of the Americas forged a new consciousness of the world and propelled the exploration of unknown lands.

## CONQUEST

- The Spanish empire spread through America from 1516-1556. In the 1520's and 1530's Mexico and Peru were conquered respectively. The invaders nonetheless brought their violent measures to plunder the lands and left their mark with disease and abuse. The arrival of the first missionaries to the Americas gave new energy to the missionary quest of the Church. The Papal interest in these lands is seen in the Pope's commissioning Spain and Portugal to evangelize the indigenous peoples of the Americas; he also gave them governing power of the new lands



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## CATHOLIC SCHOLARSHIP GREAT CATHOLIC SCHOLARS OF THE MIDDLE AGES

In the centuries prior to the Reformation the European Catholic world witnessed many great scholars who greatly advanced the learning of the church by their remarkable theological reflection.

### Franciscan Scholars

- In England the Franciscan Roger Bacon (1213-1292) was one of the first to teach Aristotle's work in Paris. He strongly believed in the study of scripture in their original languages and called for a thorough reform of Christian learning.
- William of Ockham (1285-1347) was also a Franciscan philosopher and theologian. His teaching exerted tremendous influence in the later Middle Ages.
- St Bonaventure (1226-1274) who became the Franciscan leader also was a prodigious teacher, philosopher and theologian. His writings formed the basis of Christian scholarly reflection for several centuries.
- Scotland in this era is famous for the great scholarship of the Franciscan Blessed John Duns Scotus (1274-1308). He studied theology at Oxford and Paris and taught in Cologne. His most lasting contribution is his championing of the Immaculate Conception doctrine.

### Dominican Scholars

- St Albert the Great, (1193-1280) is a revered German Dominican bishop, philosopher and theologian. He taught in Dominican priories before heading to Paris to study theology. He maintained that his theological study had to be based upon sound philosophical arguments. Many subsequent writers used his commentaries on the major teachings of the Church. He is also regarded as the pioneer of the scientific method.
- The Italian Thomas Aquinas, (1236-1274) called the Angelic Doctor, was the most prolific and influential scholar of the Middle Ages. His theology has acquired a quasi-official status in the Church through repeated endorsements by various popes. No pre-Reformation scholar equalled the size and scope of his writings and the influence of his work is still studied today.
- Johannes Guttenberg (c1398 -1468) invented the printing press around 1439. His use of an oil-based ink, with a process for mass-producing a movable type made it economically viable for printers to produce multiple texts such as the bible. This German invention changed forever the nature of communication. The Reformation issues, a century after Guttenberg, were printed in multiple texts and read throughout Europe.



## CATHOLIC LEADERS GREAT RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND ORDERS

- Many religious abbeys were instituted in this flourishing era of the Church. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1156) was a momentous leader who inaugurated many monasteries in the twelfth century. His order, the Cistercians, would initiate the formation of over 500 abbeys throughout Europe.
- The pre-Reformation centuries saw the pioneering and establishment of several very influential Religious Orders. The Dominicans Order was founded by St Dominic (1170-1221) and quickly grew in size and stature in Europe. This Order whilst encouraging the simple recitation of the Rosary and had a remarkable influence on serious Christian scholarship and missionary life.
- The Franciscans established by the charismatic St Francis (1182-1226) also produced powerful intellectuals as well as fostering simple devotions like the Christmas crib and the Stations of the Cross. Both Saint Francis and Saint Dominic were called, they did not live in monasteries but were active in the world.



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## LIFE OF THE CATHOLIC BELIEVER GREAT BUILDING PROGRAMMES

- The pre-Reformation centuries were busy ones. The focus on building cathedrals grew and Romanesque styles gave way to the breathtaking size and scope of Gothic creations. The creation of Chartres (begun 1125) and Amiens (begun 1220) cathedrals engaged the whole community with artisans and theologians combining to create worship places that instructed the faithful and filled the visitor with awe.

## PILGRIMAGES

- The Middle Ages saw a rise in popularity of a 'journey of devotion' to a sacred site; a task for the medieval 'bucket list.' Popularised by Geoffrey Chaucer the Tales of a journey to Canterbury included people from all strata of society: the princely and the pauper, the virtuous and the 'wife of Bath!' The crosses found today on many roads of Europe were medieval 'milestones' that marked the way to a famous place of prayer. The oldest journeys were to the Holy Land. Some pilgrimages were relatively short, within a country, longer ones were by land to Rome or Camino to Santiago de Compostela, or by sea to Jerusalem.

## THE CHRISTIAN ARTS

- With the rise of a rich class of merchants and guilds patronage of the arts flourished in the later Middle Ages. The commissioning of artists to represent religious events and figures became commonplace. The wealthy patrons enlisted the services of a range of painters, sculptors and builders who gained great reputation for their works in the pre-Reformation era. Among the most revered religious painters we find: Cimabue, Donatello, Ghiberti, Masaccio, Mantegna, Bellini, Beato (Fra) Angelico and Giotto. With this explosion of Christian art in churches, chapels and monasteries the faithful gained a wealth of images with which to nourish their religious imagination.

## RELIGIOUS DEVOTIONAL LIFE

- The devotions of the faithful took many forms and new prayers traditions emerged in this era, including the rosary and Stations of the Cross. Sunday Mass was in Latin, comprehended mainly by clergy only- hence a growth in private devotions. The celebration of Christian feasts in villages and towns was central in the local calendar. Passion plays at Easter and processions for the feast of Corpus Christi comprised another key component of Catholic medieval life.

## LITERATURE AND THE AFTERLIFE

- One of the most famous medieval poets was Dante Alighieri (1265-1321) who composed The Divine Comedy. A Florentine citizen exiled from his city, he spent his short life creating an epic account of travels through the levels of Hell, Purgatory and Heaven. This single text had a remarkable influence on Christian life and imagination; it offered chilling images of punishment that God inflicts upon the all sinners in the afterlife. It furnishes a list of murderers, scoundrels and heretics throughout the ages. The implicit warning of the text is to be very vigilant as Christians since there is 'no salvation outside the Catholic Church'. Despite a belief in the saving work of Christ, and importance of the sacraments for grace, a medieval fear of God's judgement and the afterlife was a dominant Christian motif in pre-Reformation Europe.



## CATHOLIC CONFLICT PRE -REFORMATION INTERNAL CHURCH CONFLICT

In the lead up to the Reformation a forerunner was the internal conflict within the Church. The centuries leading up to Martin Luther's stance saw much squabbling over leadership and teachings of the Church.



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- The location of the Papacy in the southern French city of Avignon (1309-77), through more than a century before the Reformation, destabilized the Church somewhat. The influential French cleric Clement V (1305-14) set up this non-Roman arrangement, and by selling clerical positions and imposing heavy taxes he fractured the stable base of the Church somewhat.
- The Great Western Schism (1378-1417) saw the Church divided between eight popes and antipopes for 39 years. This further splintered the strength of the Papacy and Church. In the middle of this tumultuous time the Black Death (1348-1350) in a few short years, accounted for 20 million Europeans; one third of the population from Iceland to India disappeared leaving the continent in turmoil. Generous priests, monk and friars cared for the sick and dying but the pallor of death marked the lands and clouded the social and religious consciousness of the people.
- The end of the fourteenth century saw the crushing defeat of Christian forces against the Ottomans (Turks) at the Battle of Nicopolis, September 1396. The massacre of thousands of soldiers brought to an end the Medieval concept of a Crusade.

- At the start of the fifteenth century the Church was thoroughly demoralized, not only because of the loss of the best religious leadership but also by bad examples of clerical and Papal scandals. Pope Alexander IV (1492-1503) was a poor excuse for a Pope. Bishops were often absent from their dioceses, clergy corruption was widespread with influential positions for sale; immorality and arrogance was widespread. Secular rulers also profited by financial abuses. The need for reform was urgent and universally acknowledged. The time was ripe for a strong, scholarly cleric to challenge the Church.



## CATHOLIC WOUNDS – PRE REFORMATION

The pre-Reformation centuries saw several deep wounds in the Church.

- The denunciation and attacks upon the Jews in Europe was ongoing; it was based on an erroneous belief that they, as a nation, killed the Son of God. Whilst the message of Christ's peace filled the Christian liturgies members of the Church could quickly sidestep the Gospel and engage in aggressive behaviour.

- Some conflicts embroiled the Church in larger armed skirmishes. The encounters with such sects as the Cathars, or Albigensians and the Waldensians saw the Church resort to military responses to cults that challenged the Christian society. These clashes foreshadowed the bloody Reformation battles and took large numbers of lives on both sides. The anti-Albigensian Crusade saw a massacre of heretics in 1209 and took its licence to kill from Papal statements. The Frenchman Peter Waldes (d. 1219) and his followers who criticized the corruption of the Church were also targeted in Pope Innocent III's Crusade against the Albigensians. The Church in the middle Ages when she encountered opposition to her role generally quashed the outbreak and silenced the critics. However, the size of the Reformation resistance to Rome, was far greater and stronger than these small conflicts.

- As a force the Christian Church metered out harsh treatment for any opposition even within its own ranks. In Italy Girolamo Savonarola (1452-1498) a Dominican friar and reformer was executed whilst attempting to correct Church abuses and the luxurious lifestyles of the citizens of Florence.



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