

LEADER'S GUIDE TO HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY

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NOTE: Permission is hereby granted to make copies of material in this publication for classroom use only in connection with the showing of the *History of Christianity* video series.

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THIS SERIES

We are so pleased you have selected this *History of Christianity* curriculum for your use. We expect most will be using the material as part of a group study, so we have made this printed support material flexible so you can best adapt for your particular setting and group.

Your kit includes this leader's guide and also two other publications: a 48-page student workbook and 48-page set of program transcripts. Please carefully go over these and decide what you want to put into the hands of your class or group. Please recall: you have our permission to copy materials from all three of these print supplements for use related to the showings of the *History of Christianity* videos. So you may wish to copy and hand out just selected pages that best fit your situation. Or you may want each student to have the entire workbook or the scripts. If you do not want to copy them, they can also be ordered from us in quantity at discount prices. An order form is enclosed in your kit.

So plan and adapt that which will best fit your age group and time availability. Some will simply have a six-week session during which there is only time for a few introductory comments, a viewing of the video, and brief discussion at the end.

Others will be able to devote more time and attention to the study and perhaps extend the study to 12 or 13 weeks during which one of the video programs is shown every other week and the alternate week is used for deeper study, reflection, discussion.

In this guide you will find a chapter devoted to each program. You will find "Suggested Subjects to Highlight" and "Suggested Questions to Discuss." The "Suggested Subjects to Highlight" are suggested areas where you might want to do further background reading and research. Most of the topics listed can be found in encyclopedias. You will find a good start, however, for several key subject areas in the "Background Briefing" section of this leader's guide.

The questions that are provided for each program should offer fruitful areas for further reflection and exchange of views. Our experience with test groups using the material is that you will not be able to get to all of the topics that you would like, so be sure to guide the discussion after the viewing of the program to cover what you consider most essential.

The program scripts you will find valuable for two reasons. First they enable you to select points or themes that you may wish to emphasize in your comments before the showing of the program. But the script also enables you to go back to check exactly what was said at any point in the video. Often the viewer may draw the wrong conclusion or find there is so much to absorb that a key point was missed. We suggest that you will want to keep these scripts close at hand to be able to go back to get the precise wording from the programs in response to issues that may be raised in discussion.

You will find on pages 42-46 of this leader's guide a listing of world events useful to refer to in reference to any particular century or period you may be dealing with. It is fascinating to see what else was going on in the world at the same time and to get a larger sense of the ethos and events that were meaningful in that time period. Note that there are also listings of historic dates in the Student Workbook for each chapter, but these are not as extensive as what is provided here for the leader, and you will probably find it helpful to draw upon both.

If you do not provide copies of the student workbook to each participant, you may find that some of the contents that are provided there will be valuable for you to use in your introductions to the video showings or for concluding discussion or comments at the end of the viewing.

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THIS SERIES

May we commend you for choosing a series on our Christian history. In many places a series on history is not going to arouse a groundswell of enthusiasm. We know this from experience. Over twenty years ago we sensed a calling at Gateway Films/Vision Video to specialize in Christian history films and video. This was because we felt there was such a dearth of historical awareness in our churches and that we were suffering, as a result, from a kind of spiritual amnesia. Our sister organization, Christian History Institute, was founded to provide research and prepare publications to accompany our films.

We were advised by many friends that we were doomed to failure by investing our efforts in history. One comment I never forgot came from a well meaning friend observing that “young people today will look forward to seeing a Christian history program about as much as they would look forward to a trip to the dentist.”

We found it was slow going for many years. But we also found that interest began to build and that once folks had a taste they wanted more. They found that our history was not boring. It was quite the opposite! Indeed, it was liberating. It put believers in touch with a past and a heritage far more compelling than they ever dreamed. Getting acquainted with our Christian past is like sitting down with a dear aunt and uncle, or grandparents, and having them take you through a picture album of your family past. There they introduce you to characters, events and past experiences that shaped who you are, and that discovery cannot help but thrill your soul and make you so grateful for your family — and for both the wonderful moments and the tragic ones.

So in this series you enter the great adventure of exploring our Christian past. We realize for most users this may be their first excursion into the vast reaches of our heritage. Don't be intimidated. We have tried to provide in the videos and in the student workbooks what you need at least to achieve a basic familiarity with the story of the church. And, please, don't worry for a moment about whether you will be able to master it all. You won't. Even great scholars have to specialize in certain areas. But Dr. Timothy George has given us a video overview that is approachable and understandable to anyone motivated to learn. He covers the highlights in such a way that you and your group will come away with a familiarity with major players, events, issues and turning points in the great pilgrimage of the people of God.

A couple of comments in closing. Some in your group will want to view the material again. We are finding many are eager for the additional viewing to absorb the material more fully. We hope you can find a way to make the tapes available for such optional viewing in a way that there is no danger of your finding that a needed tape has not been returned for the date of next group showing, as there are three programs on each tape.

And finally, here is a prayer that has meant a lot to me and that you may find a blessing that you would share with your group to begin your course. It is from John Baillie's *A Diary of Private Prayer* :

O Thou who wast, and art, and art to come, I thank Thee that this Christian way whereon I walk is no untried or uncharted road, but a road beaten hard by the footsteps of saints, apostles, prophets, and martyrs. I thank Thee for the finger-posts and danger-signals with which it is marked at every turning and which may be known to me through the study of the Bible, and of all history.

So let your adventure begin.

— Dr. Ken Curtis, President of Gateway Films/Vision Video and Christian History Institute

THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY: EARLY CHURCH

SUGGESTED SUBJECTS TO HIGHLIGHT

- The Roman Empire
- Pontius Pilate
- The Apostle Paul
- “Messiah”
- Alexander the Great
- Plato
- Aristotle
- Stoicism
- Tertullian
- Justin Martyr
- Origen
- *Pax Romana*
- Caesar
- Religious pluralism
- Emperor Domitian
- Ignatius of Antioch
- Bishop Polycarp of Smyrna
- Perpetua and Felicitas
- Emperor Constantine
- Decius
- Donatists
- Montanists
- Ambrose
- St. Antony of Egypt
- Basil the Great
- The Gnostics
- The Apostles’ Creed

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

1. Discuss the beginning and the ending of the Roman Empire. In what ways did the Empire conquer and control?

What was the downfall of the Roman Empire?

2. Research the Apostle Paul's three missionary journeys. List the dangers he faced on each and the progress he made in spreading the Gospel.

How did the Roman Empire at that time help Paul in preaching the risen Lord?

Why was Paul so well equipped for his missionary role?

3. Examine the term "Messiah." What did the children of Israel expect in their Messiah?

Why were they confused and disappointed?

4. How did Alexander the Great militarily conquer the civilized world?

What effect did his rule have on world culture?

5. Reflect upon the period of peace (*pax Romana*) in Rome. How did this time of peace help the expansion of Christianity?

6. What were the stages of religious pluralism in the early Roman Empire?

7. List the emperors who persecuted Christians, and discuss each one.

8. To learn more about the early Christian martyrs, encourage participants to read Foxe's *Book of Martyrs*. What was the mind-set of the early Christian martyrs?

9. What happened when Constantine came to power?

What was his vision, and how did it change the history of Christianity?

How did Emperor Constantine refer to himself?

10. Describe the life of a monk. Who were some of the most remembered monks and why?

11. Encourage participants to memorize *The Apostles' Creed*.

BACKGROUND BRIEFING

THE ROMAN EMPIRE: The empire proper began with Augustus, at the battle of Actium in 31 B.C., and ended with the abdication of the last of the Caesars in A.D. 476. The Empire included most of Europe, the Middle East, and the northern coastal area of Africa. By A.D. 117, it included about 2,500,000 square miles. In the time of Christ, the population of the Roman Empire was 85 million. But by the time Paul had an audience with procurator Felix, the Roman Empire had grown to 120 million. While people were allowed to speak their native tongue, all official acts were carried out in Latin. Latin was the official language, Hebrew was the religious language of the Jews, and Greek served as the popular language of the common people. (This is why the inscription put on Jesus' cross was in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin.)

PONTIUS PILATE: First Timothy 6:13 tells us Pontius Pilate was the magistrate under whom Jesus suffered. He came to power about A.D. 26. As an anti-Semite and governor of Judea (also called "procurator" or "prefect"), he consistently provoked the Jewish people and defied their religious laws. A group of Jerusalem priests tried to convince Pilate that Jesus was a serious threat to Jewish or Roman political power (see Luke 23:1-38). To further irritate the Jews, Pilate had inscribed on Jesus' cross: "This is the King of the Jews" (Luke 23:38). Legend says that Pilate later committed suicide.

THE APOSTLE PAUL: Paul's Jewish name was Saul. He was from the tribe of Benjamin. A Roman citizen, born in Tarsus (now in eastern Turkey), "Paulos" or "Paul" was his official Roman name. Paul was well educated in Jewish Scripture and tradition. He had the privilege of studying in Jerusalem under Gamaliel, the famous rabbi. As a young Jewish boy, Paul also learned the trade of tentmaking using goats' hair. Paul had a background that enabled him to become the greatest of all missionaries. He belonged to three worlds: Jewish (his parents were strictly orthodox Jews), Greek (the Greek culture permeated the Eastern Mediterranean following the conquests of Alexander the Great in 335-323 B.C.), and Roman (Paul was a Roman citizen, which gave him freedom of movement, protection, and access to the higher strata of society).

As a strict Pharisee, however, Paul, as the unconverted man, zealously persecuted Christians and the church. He watched the execution of Stephen, and even held the coats of those who threw the stones, an act signifying judicial responsibility for his death. In A.D. 35, Paul made a trip to Damascus to persecute Jewish Christians. As he neared Damascus, a bright light blinded him and knocked him to the ground. A voice then asked: "Why do you persecute me?" This Damascus Road experience led to Paul's conversion and call to missions. It was a difficult ministry, characterized by pain, danger, and hard work. During his ministry, Paul made three missionary journeys in A.D. 46-48, 49-52, and 53-57. After his final arrest and trial, as described in Acts, he was taken to Rome to await execution. Since he was a Roman citizen, Paul probably died by the sword (a Roman privilege) rather than by crucifixion. According to the tradition, he was beheaded in A.D. 64 by order of the emperor Nero. We know the Apostle Paul as the outstanding missionary and writer of the early church. Thirteen epistles in the New Testament have been attributed to Paul, twelve of which bear his name. Paul's theology was not well understood immediately after his death. It was Augustine who first gave full weight to Paul's theology.

A SECOND-CENTURY DESCRIPTION OF PAUL: "A man small in size, with meeting eyebrows and a rather large nose, bald-headed, bow-legged, strongly built, full of grace; for at times he looked like a man, and at times he had the face of an angel."

TIMOTHY: His name means "honoring God." Born in Lystra, Timothy was Paul's friend and coworker and, no doubt, his convert on Paul's first missionary journey (see Acts 14:6-23). Timothy's father was Greek, but his mother (Eunice) and grandmother (Lois) were Jewish and taught him the Scriptures. Paul had Timothy circumcised (see Acts 16:1-5), and Timothy traveled with Paul as a coworker. Paul also sent Timothy on many crucial missions. To Paul, his close friend, Timothy, was his "child in the faith," or as Paul writes to the

Corinthians, “For this reason I am sending to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church” (1 Cor. 4:17 NIV).

WHAT WAS MEANT BY “MESSIAH”? Messiah means “anointed one” (in Hebrew), corresponding to *christos* (in Greek). Throughout Hebrew history, the children of Israel hoped the “anointed of God” would come, a warrior who would expel the Romans from Israel and establish a world-reigning Jewish kingdom. Jesus came, however, not as a victorious warrior king, but as a suffering servant, a concept misunderstood by the people of his day. But, in the coming of Jesus the *christos* or the “Christ,” the messianic prophecies of the Old Testament were fulfilled.

ALEXANDER THE GREAT: The son of Philip of Macedon, Alexander (356-323 B.C.) was born at Pella, Macedonia. As a teenager, he studied under Aristotle. At 20, already an able soldier and organizer, Alexander became king of Macedonia. To receive recognition as the supreme ruler of the world, he required his provinces to worship him as a god. Before his death on June 13, 323 B.C., Alexander had militarily conquered the civilized world, bringing to it Greek ideas and culture.

PLATO: A great philosopher of Western culture, Plato (a nickname meaning “broad-shouldered”) was born in Athens about 427 B.C. His real name was Aristocles, and he belonged to an aristocratic family. He studied under Socrates until Socrates was executed. In 397 B.C, he opened a school called “The Academy,” which became the intellectual center of Greece and the first university in Europe. Plato believed in the three virtues — temperance, courage, and wisdom — and posited an eternal realm of transcendent reality shaped by truth, beauty, and goodness. He died in Athens in 366 B.C.

ARISTOTLE: A Greek philosopher and influential thinker, Aristotle (384-322 B.C.) was born in Stagira, to the north of Greece. He received a good education in natural science from his father, court physician to the Macedonian king. At 17, and for the next 20 years, he studied in Athens under Plato. When Plato died, Aristotle was called to Pella to tutor Alexander (the Great), who was then only 14 years old. Aristotle became Plato’s successor and the philosophic leader of the ancient world.

WHAT WAS STOICISM? A Stoic was a member of a school of Greek philosophy founded by Zeno of Citium about 300 B.C. Stoicism taught that the wise man should be impassive, free from passion. He should remain unmoved by grief or joy and show no response when faced with distress or pain. Tertullian used the language and thought-forms of law, rhetoric and Stoicism.

WHAT WAS EPICURIANISM? A Greek philosophy founded by Epicurus (342?-270 B.C.), Epicurianism taught that pleasure is good and pain is evil. Epicurus was born on the island of Samos and, about 306 B.C, established a school of philosophy in Athens. Epicurus believed that an uncontrolled pursuit of pleasure involved more pain than good in life. Epicurus thought that pain, fear of death, and fear of the gods were the greatest threats to man’s happiness. In light of his belief, he taught that a temperate life reduced pain. After Epicurus’ death, his philosophy spread to Rome.

TERTULLIAN: The first major Christian author to write in Latin, Tertullian lived in Carthage (capital of the Roman province of Africa). His surviving works date from A.D. 196-212. They include: *Apology*, *Against Marcion*, *Against Praxeas* (on the doctrine of the Trinity), *Exclusion of Heretics*, *On the Soul* (on psychology), and *On Baptism* (the earliest surviving treatise about baptism). Tertullian had strong views on church discipline, remarriage, fasting, and fleeing to avoid Christian persecution. Tertullian joined the Montanists around A.D. 207. He coined the saying, “the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church,” and asked the famous question, “What has Athens to do with Jerusalem?”

JUSTIN MARTYR: Born in Palestine, and a pagan, Justin became a convert to Christianity by the seashore (perhaps at Ephesus) in conversation with an old man who pointed him to the Jewish prophets who spoke of Christ. His classical philosophy came to include his new faith in Christ. He taught in Ephesus and Rome. A deep thinker and writer, he wrote *First Apology* (addressed to Emperor Antoninus Pius [A.D. 138-161]), claiming that Christian beliefs and practices reflected a higher reason and morality. He wrote *Second Apology* to protest against injustice. *Dialogue with Trypho* records his conversion and deep disagreement with a devout Jew, Trypho. Justin died a martyr in Rome (A.D. 165).

ORIGEN: Origen was born into a Christian family in Alexandria (A.D. 185). He is known as the greatest scholar and most prolific author of the early church. He became a teacher, but, due to problems with Bishop Demetrius of Alexandria, Origen was forced to move to Caesarea. Origen's great works include the *Hexapla*, *First Principles*, *Exhortation to Martyrdom and Prayer*, and *Against Celsus*. A loyal churchman and deeply spiritual, Origen tried to harmonize Greek philosophy and the Christian tradition. Some of his teachings, including his belief in universalism, were repudiated by the church and helped bring about his later condemnation. He died in A.D. 254 from injuries inflicted during Emperor Decius' persecution of Christians.

MOSES: His name means "drawn out of the water." Forced into Egyptian slavery, the children of Israel suffered under the Egyptian Pharaoh. To limit population growth of the Israelites, Pharaoh ordered that newborn Hebrew boys be thrown to their deaths in the Nile (see Ex. 1:22). Moses' mother made a bulrush basket and placed child and basket in the river. The Pharaoh's daughter found him and adopted the baby as her own child. Moses grew up in luxury in Pharaoh's household. But Moses became concerned with the oppression of his people. When Moses saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, he killed the Egyptian and then fled to the land of Midian. There he married a Midianite's daughter and became a shepherd. Moses' turning point came when he confronted a burning bush. God spoke to him through the fire and presented him with a special commission. After much debate with, and opposition from, Pharaoh, Moses led his people from Egypt to Mount Sinai, an exodus that lasted 40 years. Moses died (see Deut. 34), never reaching the "promised land" (see Num. 20).

WHAT IS MEANT BY "PAX ROMANA"? The *pax Romana* or "Roman peace" began with the reign of Augustus and lasted 200-300 years. During this time of relative stability in the Roman Empire, people prospered and travel was unhindered. The standard of living rose and commerce flourished. This period of peace greatly aided the Apostle Paul and the expansion of Christianity, for Paul could travel freely throughout the Mediterranean world, and he could expect the protection of the Roman government.

CAESAR: Caesar was the family name of the founder of the Roman Empire. When Julius Caesar was assassinated in 44 B.C., his successors kept alive his memory and used his name as a title. New Testament Caesars included Augustus, Tiberius, Claudius, and probably Nero. Jews were exempted from taking part in emperor-worship. When Christians refused to offer incense on the altar to the Emperor, they were subjected to persecutions. Jesus made reference to Caesar in his statement on the payment of taxes found in Matthew 22:15-22.

WHAT WAS RELIGIOUS PLURALISM? In the early Roman Empire, gods such as Janus, Jupiter, Juno, Mars, and Vesta symbolized the powers of nature. They were agricultural gods. Religion was a contract: "I give that you may give." Romans worked hard to preserve "the peace of the gods" through sacrifices and other religious ceremonies. There were thousands of gods. As Roman power expanded, the influence of Greek religion became strong. The Romans began to worship Greek gods like Apollo. Greek myths surrounded these gods. Around 20 B.C. (the time of Augustus), people grew tired of the "old religion" and adopted the ideas of Greek philosophers, especially the Stoics and the Epicureans. Augustus and later emperors tried to revive the old religion and even declared themselves to be gods. People turned to Oriental religions, such as the worship of Cybele, Isis, Mithras, and Serapis. Finally, because of the dissatisfaction

people experienced with the vast array of religions and gods, Christianity began to gain converts. But Christians endured severe persecution under Nero and Diocletian. Constantine, however, in A.D. 313, gave Christians the freedom to worship Jesus Christ. Under Theodosius I (c. A.D. 380), Christianity became the state religion.

WHO WERE SOME FAMOUS GREEK GODS?

Jupiter (or Zeus): “the best and the greatest”

Juno (or Hera): “responsible for women and marriage”

Mars (or Ares): “the god of war”

Neptune (or Poseidon): “god of the sea and rivers”

Mercury (or Hermes): “the god of merchants and thieves”

Venus (or Aphrodite): “the goddess of love and beauty”

EMPEROR DOMITIAN: The book of Revelation gives evidence of Christian persecution in Asia under Domitian about A.D. 81-96. Domitian gave himself the title “master and god.” Refusal to worship the Emperor was considered a sign of treason.

IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH: A second-century bishop at Antioch, Ignatius wrote seven letters addressed to the churches at Ephesus, Magnesia, Tralles, Rome, Philadelphia, Smyrna, and to Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna. These letters were written on his journey to Rome (A.D. 110-115) on his way to execution. He strongly condemned Docetist ideas current in Asia Minor churches, and he put a high value on the ordinance of communion.

BISHOP POLYCARP OF SMYRNA: One of Polycarp’s students was Irenaeus, who became bishop of Lyons in A.D. 177 and who wrote books aimed to counteract Gnosticism (*Against Heresies* and *Proof of the Apostolic Preaching*). Following Polycarp’s martyrdom, his bones were preserved by devout believers and his death was celebrated annually by his church. This marked an important step in the development of relics and the cult of the martyrs.

PERPETUA AND FELICITAS: A noblewoman and the mother of a nursing infant, Perpetua was a Christian who would not recant her faith. Thrown in prison, a “dark hole,” Perpetua’s father argued with her: “Perform the sacrifice — have pity on your baby!” But when Hilarianus, the governor, said to her, “Have pity on your father’s grey head; have pity on your infant son. Offer the sacrifice for the welfare of the emperors,” Perpetua replied, “I will not.” “Then Hilarianus passed sentence on all of us,” Perpetua wrote in her diary. “We were condemned to the beasts, and we returned to prison in high spirits.” Perpetua and her maid, Felicitas, were placed in the arena and torn apart by the beasts. Christians who gave their lives rather than betray their Lord were held in high honor by the church. The “Acts of Perpetua and Felicitas” became one of the most popular martyr stories in the early church.

EMPEROR CONSTANTINE: Constantine I, the Great, lived A.D. 272?- 337. His full name was Flavius Valerius Aurelius Constantinus. He was proclaimed emperor when his father, one of the emperors of the West Roman Empire, died in A.D. 306. An able soldier at the battle of Milvian Bridge in 312, Constantine saw a vision of the Christian cross before the battle. Written on the cross was, “By this sign thou shalt conquer.” Constantine chose the cross as his battle symbol. From 312 to 324, Constantine ruled as Emperor of the West. In 324, after he defeated Licinius, Emperor of the East, he became sole ruler of the Roman Empire. In the following year, he convened the famous Council of Nicea. In 330, he moved his capital from Rome to ancient Byzantium, which became Constantinople. When Constantine died, his empire was divided among his three sons, Constantine II, Constantius II, and Constans. Constantine described himself as “defender of the church.” Eusebius, the bishop of Caesarea, wrote a glowing biography of Constantine, describing him as “the thirteenth apostle.”

EMPEROR DECIUS: In A.D. 250, Emperor Decius (249-251) staged the most violent persecution the church had known yet. When commanded to sacrifice to the Roman gods, the citizens of the Empire who did so were given certificates. Those who did not were executed. The bishops of Rome, Antioch, and Jerusalem were among those executed. When Decius died in battle less than two years later, persecution under Emperor Gallus (251-253) became less widespread. It was to be renewed, however, under the reign of the Emperor Valerian (253-260). After a few decades of relative peace, the most severe persecution ever known began in 303 under Emperor Diocletian. Many Christians were martyred.

WHO WERE THE DONATISTS? The Donatists in North Africa were named after Donatus, bishop in Carthage (A.D. 313 to 355). They were a protest movement who believed they constituted the true church. They thought the Catholics were apostate. Devoted to martyrdom, they stood for a holy church, purity of discipline, and defiance of ungodly leaders. In spite of much oppression, Donatism survived until the seventh century, when North African Christianity was submerged by the invading Moors.

WHO WERE THE MONTANISTS? Montanism (first led by a Christian named Montanus), arose in Phrygia, in central Asia Minor around A.D. 172. Montanists believed time would soon end and Jesus would return. They generated many prophecies predicting the Second Coming. They also lived chaste and strict ascetic lifestyles, constantly fasting and welcoming persecution. Tertullian of Carthage (“the father of Latin theology”) was the most distinguished Montanist. The Montanists created discord at a time when bishops were striving towards a united, stable church based on the apostles’ teachings. They were excommunicated by the church but survived into the fifth century in Africa and even longer in Phrygia. Most of their prolific prophecies were destroyed and survive today only in fragments.

AMBROSE: Born into a noble Roman family and well-educated, Ambrose (A.D. 339-97), at age 34, was elected bishop (in A.D. 374), after the death of the Arian bishop of Milan. He had not yet been baptized and came to the position with great reluctance until he was persuaded this move was God’s will. He held the position of bishop for 23 years. Ambrose encouraged early monasticism in the West. He had a great influence on Augustine, whom he baptized on Easter Sunday in 387. He became famous as a preacher, a church administrator, and a politician. Later he became a close adviser to the Emperor Theodosius (who strongly supported the orthodox faith). Ambrose was the first church leader to use his office successfully to coerce civil rulers. He introduced hymn-singing into the church and wrote at least four Latin hymns. Ambrose stood strongly against Arianism and helped in its overthrow in the West. “Nothing can be found in this world more exalted than priests or more sublime than bishops,” Ambrose wrote.

SAINT ANTONY OF EGYPT: An early Christian monk, or “hermit” or “anchorite” (“one who withdraws”), Saint Antony (about 251-356) gave away all his earthly possessions at 20 years of age. He wanted to serve Christ free from any distraction. He later organized a cluster of hermit cells around him as he was constantly beset by visitors and yearned to be alone. Athanasius wrote *Life of Antony* and helped promote monasticism by praising the life of the desert ascetics. “Antony would eat only once a day after sunset, and sometimes he did not taste food for two or frequently for four days. His food was bread and salt; he drank only water,” Athanasius wrote. St. Augustine was greatly influenced by heroic stories about Antony and his simple lifestyle.

WHAT WAS A PILLAR SAINT? After martyrdom became less frequent, the martyrs were replaced as the “spiritual elite” by monks. Trying to achieve a pure Christianity, they went to extreme measures to find a deep communion with God. The first monks retreated to the desert in Egypt or Syria. Antony was the first famous hermit. They were devoted to prayer and Bible reading and fasting. They experienced loneliness and lack of food and sleep. Even though some were married, they lived without a sexual relationship. Simeon Stylites was one of the more famous of the pillar saints. He spent the last part of his life on top of a pillar, his friends sending up his food and receiving down his wastes. (The base of his pillar can still be seen among the remains of a church in Syria.)

BASIL THE GREAT: He was born into a wealthy Christian family in Caesarea about A.D. 330. After his baptism, he chose an ascetic lifestyle on his family estate in Pontus (357). Dedicated to biblical study, he compiled an anthology of Origen's works. Ordained presbyter in 364, he succeeded Eusebius as bishop of Caesarea in 370. Basil's writings on the monastic life stressed love and community. His studies on the Trinity paved the way for the work of the Council of Constantinople in 381. He died in Caesarea in 379.

GNOSTICS: Gnosticism was a religious movement that taught that people could be saved through a "secret knowledge." Gnosticism shows up in Christian writings in the second century and were considered "heretical perversions of Christianity." Gnostics rejected the Old Testament, and blamed the God of the Old Testament for creating the evil material world. We have learned about Gnosticism through the writings of several Christians, including Irenaeus, Hippolytus, Origen, Tertullian, and Epiphanius. Gnostic manuscripts recently published include the "Codex Askewianus," the "Codex Brucianus," and the "Codex Bezae Cantabrigiae." In 1946, some 50 Gnostic writings (written about A.D. 400), were discovered near Nag Hammadi in Upper Egypt. Early Gnostic leaders/teachers included Simon Magus, the magician (see Acts 8), Menander (Antioch in Syria), Saturninus (Antioch), Cerinthus (Asia Minor), Marcion (of Pontus), Basilides and son, Isidore (Alexandria), Carpocrates and son, Epiphanes (Alexandria), and the most famous, Valentinus (Alexandria).

THE APOSTLES' CREED:

I believe in God almighty [the Father almighty]
And in Christ Jesus, his only Son, our Lord,
Who was born of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
Who was crucified under Pontius Pilate and was buried
And the third day rose from the dead,
Who ascended into heaven
And sits on the right hand of the Father
Whence he comes to judge the living and the dead,
And in the Holy ghost,
The holy church,
The remission of sins,
The resurrection of the flesh,
The life everlasting.
(The Old Roman Creed)

THE QUEST FOR ORDER: MEDIEVAL CHRISTENDOM

SUGGESTED SUBJECTS TO HIGHLIGHT

- Alaric
- St. Jerome
- St. Augustine
- The City of God
- The Middle Ages
- Muhammad
- Charlemagne
- St. Bernard of Clairvaux
- Thomas Aquinas
- Pope John XXII
- St. Anselm
- Francis of Assisi
- The Knight and the Troubadour
- Peter Waldo
- Pope Innocent III
- John Wycliffe
- John Huss
- Savonarola

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

1. What was the reaction of the Roman Empire when Alaric, king of the Visigoths, made the surprise attack on Rome (August 24, 410)?

What is the significance of the statement St. Jerome made after hearing of the attack?

2. What is meant by “Augustine stood with one foot in the closing era of Latin Christianity and the other in the beginning era of Reformation”?

What influence would Augustine have on theologians who came after him?

Who were some of his greatest followers?

3. Why did Augustine write *The City of God*? If possible, read and examine the thesis of this book.

4. Describe the Middle Ages.

5. Define the teachings of Muhammad. What is happening in the world of Islam today?

Is Islam still a threat to Christianity? Why?

6. Why is Pope John XXII, the French pope, remembered as one of the most “efficient and ruthless” of fourteenth-century popes?

7. Who was John Wycliffe, and why did he provide the Wycliffe Bible?

8. Girolamo Savonarola, an Italian reformer, had a great influence upon the city of Florence. Discuss this influence.

Why was he executed?

9. Were the Middle Ages really the “Dark Ages” as they have been called?

What can we learn from them?

BACKGROUND BRIEFING

ALARIC: The king of the Visigoths, Alaric made a surprise attack on Rome the night of August 24, 410, and, for three days, ransacked the city. For the first time in 800 years, Rome had been taken by a foreign enemy. The barbarian attacks on the Western Empire in the fifth century resulted in the replacement of Roman government by Germanic kingdoms in Western provinces, which, as an immediate cause, caused Rome to fall. Other reasons have also been given, such as a decline in morality, corruption in public administration, a failure of human and material resources, an inability to deal with political, social and economic problems, etc.

ST. JEROME: Born in northeast Italy, Jerome (345-420) was a leading Bible scholar of his time. Baptized in Rome, he received a classical education and joined an ascetic community at Aquileia. In 374, after a disturbing vision, Jerome withdrew to the Syrian desert southeast of Antioch, where he studied Hebrew. He later studied with Gregory of Nazianzus in Constantinople, became secretary to Pope Damasus in Rome (382), and was commissioned by the pope to make an improved Latin Bible translation. Jerome worked on the Latin Scriptures for 23 years (382-405). His Bible, the Vulgate, gained affirmation at the Council of Trent in 1546. In 386, Jerome settled down in Bethlehem, spending the last 33 years of his life there in seclusion writing commentaries on books of the Bible and translating Scripture into Latin. At the fall of the Western Roman Empire, Jerome, in Bethlehem, exclaimed in tears: "The city which has taken the whole world is itself taken!"

ST. AUGUSTINE: Augustine stood with one foot in the closing era of Latin Christianity and the other in the beginning era of Reformation. Born in Tascaste in 354, Augustine's spiritual search led him to Manicheism, Epicureanism, and Neoplatonism. His turning point came as he sat in a garden in Milan and read Romans 13:13-14: "Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature" (NIV). Augustine returned to Tascaste in 388 after his mother, Monica, died. By 391, he was a priest at Hippo, and by 396, he was the Catholic bishop. He wrote the Confessions early in his life, and *The City of God* as a mature man. He died in 430, as the Arian Vandal invaders were besieging Hippo. His influence on the future church reformers would be great.

THE CITY OF GOD: Augustine wrote *The City of God* to counter an accusation made when Alaric pillaged the city of Rome in 410. Some Romans believed that rejection of their ancestral gods proved the reason for the ransacking. The pagans complained, "When we used to sacrifice to our gods, Rome was flourishing; but now when people sacrifice to your God everywhere, and our sacrifices are forbidden, see what is happening to Rome." *The City of God* stated that within the Roman Empire were two cities, a pagan society (the City of Man) and the Christian community (the City of God). He assured fellow Christians that the City of God was eternal, but must coexist with the City of Man until the end of time.

MIDDLE AGES: The European Middle Ages began about A.D. 500 and lasted until about A.D. 1500. The church had survived from the ancient world into the Middle Ages and in many ways had taken on the shape of the Roman world in which it had grown to maturity.

MUHAMMAD: With Muhammad of Mecca (about 570-632), a remarkable religious leader, the movement of Islam began. Islam (a word meaning "submission to the will of God") soon became medieval Christianity's greatest opponent. Islamic culture shared the same Jewish and Hellenistic background as early Christian thought. Muhammad received his religious call in 610, and by the time of his death, all of Arabia was committed to Islam.

The teachings of Muhammad included the impending judgment of the world, with reward and punishment for each individual's actions, and the teaching of Allah, the creator and judge. In addition, the message of Muhammad imposed five main obligations upon Muslim believers: the confession of faith ("There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet"), prayer five times a day, charitable gifts, fasting in the holy month of Ramadan, and the pilgrimage to Mecca. The basic source of the divine revelation was the *Qur'an*.

CHARLEMAGNE: On Christmas Day, 800, Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne (742-814) as emperor. (Charlemagne's grandfather was Charles Martel [698? -741].) Alcuin, an Anglo-Saxon scholar, became head tutor at the court of Charlemagne. He greatly influenced the intellectual, cultural and religious direction of the Carolingian Empire or "Carolingian Renaissance." Alcuin upheld orthodox belief and the authority of the church, the eminence of the Holy Roman see and Charlemagne's sacred position as emperor.

SAINT BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX: Bernard (1090-1153), born to a noble family near Bijon, turned his back on the world and its comforts. He chose to lead a life of self-denial and prayer. He entered the monastery of Citeaux at the age of 21. In 1115, he founded the new house of Clairvaux with a dozen Cistercians. History calls this Abbot of Clairvaux, the "most influential Christian of his age," and is still greatly influenced by his writing. Worn out by strenuous asceticism, he died in August 1153.

THOMAS AQUINAS: Thomas (1225-1274) was nicknamed "the dumb ox" because of his momentous size and slowness. Born in Aquino, Italy, he is considered the greatest scholastic theologian of the Middle Ages. When he decided to enter the Dominican order, his family, wealthy and noble, tried hard to discourage him. A prolific writer, Aristotle greatly influenced his philosophy. His two most important works are the *Summa Theologiae* and the *Summa Contra Gentiles*.

POPE JOHN XXII: A French pope, John XXII (1316-1334) is remembered as one of the most "efficient and ruthless" of fourteenth-century popes. His headquarters at Avignon, he took great interest in the affairs of Europe, including a reform in papal administration and trying to discover ways to increase papal income. Far more than a spiritual leader, he was an able financial and administrative leader.

SAINT ANSELM: Anselm (1033-1109) was a philosopher, a theologian, and one of the great archbishops of Canterbury, succeeding Lanfranc. His greatest work in theology was his *Cur Deus Homo (Why God Became Man)*. In this work, he challenged earlier theories of sin and forgiveness and set forth his distinctive understanding of the atoning work of Christ as a penal substitution objectively effected by the Savior's death on the cross. In this famous statement he echoed Augustine: "I do not seek to understand that I may believe, but I believe that I may understand: for this I also believe, that unless I believe I will not understand."

FRANCIS OF ASSISI: Francis (1182-1226) was born into a wealthy family and spent a carefree childhood and youth until he was converted to Christ (due to an illness, a pilgrimage to Rome, a vision, and the words of Jesus in Matthew 10:7-10). He left home (and an angry father) with few possessions, lived in poverty, begged from the rich, gave to the poor, and preached throughout the countryside. He founded the "Lesser Brothers" after receiving approval from Pope Innocent III in 1210. Toward the end of his life, ill and blind, he composed his *Canticle to the Sun*, his *Admonitions* and his *Testament*. Francis spent his life in preaching and missions, as well as in caring for the poor and sick.

THE KNIGHT: A knight was a man-at-arms who was ceremonially inducted into a special military rank, usually after serving as a page and squire.

THE TROUBADOUR: The troubadour was one of a class of lyric poets and poet-musicians (often of knightly rank) who flourished from the 11th to the end of the 13th century, chiefly in the south of France and the north of Italy.

PETER WALDO: Waldo (or Valdes) was a wealthy merchant of Lyons until his conversion about 1175-6. Then he gave away everything he had and chose to follow the example of Christ by living a simple life in poverty. Many people followed after his example. Called the Waldensians, they spread the Biblical message and exalted the virtues of poverty. "They go about in twos, barefoot, in woolen garments, owning nothing, holding all things in common like the apostles," someone wrote about them. In 1181, the Archbishop of Lyons prohibited their preaching. The Waldensians then preached even more zealously, and emphasized the worldliness of the clergy. Waldo was excommunicated in 1185 at Verona by Pope Lucius III. The followers of Waldo considered the Catholic church the "Whore of Babylon." By the end of the thirteenth century, the Waldensians had infiltrated practically the whole of Europe (except for Britain), and had become a commonly persecuted movement.

POPE INNOCENT III: Under Innocent III (1198-1216, the years of his papacy) the medieval papacy reached its peak of authority and influence. A skillful diplomat, he believed the pope had unique authority as the vicar of Christ and was the successor of Peter. At the end of his career, in 1215, Innocent called the Fourth Lateran Council, which defined the dogma of transubstantiation.

JOHN WYCLIFFE: We remember John Wycliffe (or Wyclif), c. 1329-1384, as an English reformer in the later Middle Ages. Born in England, he became a leading philosopher at Oxford University. His views on the Church, however, were condemned by the pope in 1377. He died in Lutterworth a sick man. His famous works included a *Summa Theologica*, and the Wyclif Bible, a new translation of the Latin Vulgate into English. His loyal followers were known as "Lollards." The Church condemned Wycliffe for heresy in 1415 at the Council of Constance (1414-1418), and his body was removed from holy ground in 1427.

JOHN HUSS: John Huss (or Jan Hus), 1374-1415, was ordained a priest in 1401. He taught at the Charles University in Prague and preached in the Bethlehem Chapel nearby. Influenced by Wycliffe, his primary work, *On the Church*, "defined the church as the body of Christ, with Christ its only head." Huss's statements against the authority, and on the corruptness, of popes and cardinals, led to his death. When burned at the stake, his death aroused the national feelings of the Czech people. They established the Hussite church in Bohemia and started a reform movement which would influence later leaders including Martin Luther.

SAVANAROLA: Girolamo Savonarola, an Italian reformer, was burned in the "Piazza della Signoria" in Florence, Italy, in 1498. Born in Ferrara, Italy (1452), he studied medicine and humanism but left that career to become a Dominican in 1474. As a popular preacher, he rose to a position of power, and almost single-handedly reformed the city of Florence into a "virtual monastery." Publicly denouncing Pope Alexander VI and the papal court, however, led to his execution.

THE REFORMATION: DIVISION AND RENEWAL BETWEEN MEDIEVAL AND MODERN TIMES

SUGGESTED SUBJECTS TO HIGHLIGHT

- Martin Luther
- “Diet of Worms”
- The Printing Press
- The Renaissance
- “Black Death”
- Alexander VI
- Erasmus
- The Greek New Testament
- Indulgences
- 95 Theses
- The Vulgate
- Justification by Faith Alone
- John Eck
- Charles V
- Philip Melanchthon
- John Calvin
- Salvation By Grace
- Theodore Beza
- The Anabaptists
- Menno Simons
- Luther’s hymn: “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”
- King Henry VIII
- Archbishop Thomas Cranmer
- Augustinian Monks
- The Luther Bible
- Huldrych Zwingli
- Martin Bucer

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

1. Discuss in detail the following reformers, who they were, what they believed, their impact upon society and Christianity, and how they died:

- Martin Luther
- Desiderius Erasmus
- John Calvin
- Theodore Beza
- Philip Melanchthon
- Menno Simons
- Huldrych Zwingli
- Martin Bucer

2. Define and discuss the “Renaissance.”

3. Discuss the corruption of the medieval church.

4. Who were the Anabaptists?

What did they believe?

What impact did they have on Christianity?

5. Describe the life of an Augustinian monk.

6. How did the Reformation change the course of the Christian church?

7. How has the impact of the Reformation come to us today?

8. What were the strengths and weaknesses of the Reformation?

BACKGROUND BRIEFING

MARTIN LUTHER: Born in 1483 in Eisleben, Luther, the great German Reformer, studied law at the University of Erfurt. During a “thunderstorm” encounter, he vowed to become an Augustinian monk. He was ordained in 1507. Luther later taught biblical studies at the University of Wittenberg, a new school which had opened in 1502. With his 95 Theses, Luther attacked the teaching of the church concerning indulgences. He rejected the idea of the church as a hierarchical institution under the bishop of Rome, handing out salvation through sacraments. He was excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church in 1521 when he refused to recant his position. At the Wartburg Castle, he translated the New Testament into German. He was a prolific author of books, he preached and taught without fear. He translated the Bible into the German language, putting it directly into the common people’s hands. Luther died in 1546.

MARTIN LUTHER’S BELIEFS: Luther, as well as the other Protestant Reformers, believed these three principles:

1. God’s Word of Authority: God had spoken to humanity and that account He gave us in Holy Scripture. God’s Word was a living, speaking Word.
2. Salvation as Gift: Salvation came by grace alone, as a free and undeserved gift of Christ.
3. All Believers are Priests: There are not two levels of Christians: spiritual and lay, but one status before God, “the priesthood of all believers.”

LUTHER’S “DIET OF WORMS” STATEMENT: The Diet of Worms, April, 1521: “Your Imperial Majesty and Your Lordships demand a simple answer. Here it is, plain and unvarnished. Unless I am convicted by error by the testimony of Scripture or (since I put no trust in the unsupported authority of pope or of councils, since it is plain that they have often erred and often contradicted themselves) by manifest reasoning I stand convicted by the Scriptures to which I have appealed, and my conscience is taken captive by God’s Word, I cannot and will not recant anything. For to act against our conscience is neither safe for us nor open to us. On this I take my stand. I can do no other. God help me. Amen.”

THE PRINTING PRESS: Called Germany’s “chief contribution to the Renaissance,” the invention of the printing press, by Johann Gutenberg (1400-1468) in 1445, revolutionized scholarship and education. Before the printing press, books had to be painstakingly copied by hand. Printing with the movable metal type was well established throughout Europe by the time of Luther’s birth. The printing press played an important part in the early promotion of the Reformation.

“THE RENAISSANCE”: “Renaissance” means “rebirth” or “revival.” It was the transitional movement in Europe between medieval and modern times. Beginning in 14th century Italy, it lasted into the 17th century. The Renaissance expressed itself in the widespread development of art, literature, and the beginnings of modern science. It was a period of vigorous artistic and intellectual activity.

A.I.D.S.: THE MODERN DAY BUBONIC PLAGUE: Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) brings the death sentence of AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). Like the Bubonic Plague, AIDS is a devastating disease without a cure. HIV has become a global epidemic. According to 1996 statistics, 22 million people worldwide are HIV infected. The World Health Organization project 40 million will be infected by the year 2000.

“BLACK DEATH”: Bubonic Plague, a devastating plague, with no known cure, struck Europe in 1347. Caused by a germ called *Pasteurella pestis*, the disease had a high death rate. In three years, the “Black Death” had killed one-fourth of the population of Europe. Between 1334 to 1351, it swept over Russia, Germany, Italy, France, England, Norway, China, India, and Persia.

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ALEXANDER VI: Born in Spain in 1430, Alexander VI (Rodrigo Borgia) was a wily politician, rich, and immoral. He became a cardinal and then vice-chancellor in the papal court of his uncle, Calixtus III. He had many children before his election as pope, and the church provided for them all. Alexander VI died in 1503, when Luther was 20 years of age.

ERASMUS: Desiderius Erasmus was born in Rotterdam in 1467. He became an Augustinian canon in 1487. He was ordained as a priest in 1492. He is author of *Christian Soldier's Manual*, *the Colloquies*, *Praise of Folly*, and the first ever published Greek New Testament (1516). He has been called the "journalist of scholarship." A forerunner of the Reformation, he was a serious scholar of Latin and Greek. It was later said that Erasmus laid the egg which Luther hatched! Erasmus died at Basel in 1536.

THE GREEK NEW TESTAMENT: Desiderius Erasmus stated, "I wish that the Scriptures might be translated into all languages, so that not only the Scots and the Irish, but also the Turk and the Saracen might read and understand them. I long that the farm-labourer might sing them as he follows his plough, the weaver hum them to the tune of his shuttle, the traveller beguile the weariness of his journey with their stories." The editing of the Greek New Testament was Erasmus' most important contribution to the history of the church. The first ever published, it was printed in 1516, a year before the Reformation began.

A CORRUPT CHURCH: The Medieval Church was corrupt. Widespread among the clergy were sexual immortality, absenteeism, and negligence. In 1510, Luther visited Rome, the Holy City, and was shocked by the corruption he saw.

"WHEN A COIN IN THE COFFER RINGS": With his 95 Theses, Professor Martin Luther protested the theology of "indulgences" in the Church. Called "holy trade," indulgences were the "remission of part or all of the temporal and especially purgatorial punishment that (according to Roman Catholicism) was due for sins whose eternal punishment had been remitted, and whose guilt had been pardoned, as through the sacrament of penance." The people feared purgatory. The church sold indulgences and clergymen collected the money. Through the purchase of an indulgence, one could receive great spiritual benefits, including release time from purgatory. Or as Tetzl put it in a catchy jingle, "When the coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory springs!" Luther strongly and publicly opposed the practice of indulgences. He was ordered to recant his position in 1520, but he would not. He was excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church on January 3, 1521.

95 THESES: On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany. At that time, people used the church doors as a sort of community bulletin board. The 95 Theses was an argument against indulgences sold by the Roman Catholic Church. Leo X (1513-1521) was pope at this time and spent his time and energy managing the large and corrupt papal bureaucracy. This left him no time to give moral leadership over Europe. Leo X made two comments when he first saw the 95 Theses in 1518: He said, "Luther is a drunken German. He will feel different when he is sober"; and "Friar Martin is a brilliant chap. The whole row is due to the envy of the monks." Relations between Luther and the papacy deteriorated after 1519. The papacy regarded Luther as a "son of iniquity." Luther was, indeed, perceived as a threat to the vested interests of the church. Luther was called a "political outlaw" at the Diet of Worms in 1521, when he was excommunicated by the church.

PURGATORY: According to the Roman Catholic tradition, a person had to suffer temporarily in the place of purification called "purgatory" before he could reach heaven. Purgatory was a place of temporary punishment, where the souls of those who had died in God's grace could make restitution for the sins committed in their earthly life. People, during Reformation times, greatly feared the suffering of purgatory. The church sold indulgences to the people in return for absolving the purchaser of his sins. Martin Luther strongly opposed this doctrine as unscriptural.

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THE VULGATE: The Latin translation of the Bible used almost exclusively throughout the Middle Ages was the Vulgate. The Vulgate was the authentic text of the Bible for the Roman Catholic church. The Vulgate was confirmed by the Council of Trent in 1546.

MARTIN LUTHER: "I greatly longed to understand Paul's Epistle to the Romans, and nothing stood in the way but that one expression, 'the righteousness of God,' because I took it to mean that righteousness whereby God is righteous and deals righteously in punishing the unrighteous.... Night and day I pondered until...I grasped the truth that the righteousness of God is that righteousness whereby, through grace and sheer mercy, he justifies us by truth. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise. The whole of Scripture took on a new meaning, and whereas before 'the righteousness of God' had filled me with hate, now it became to me inexpressibly sweet in great love. This passage of Paul became to me a gateway to heaven."

HABAKKUK, PAUL, AND LUTHER: Habakkuk was a prophet of the late seventh century B.C. He was a contemporary to Jeremiah. His name means "to embrace." Habakkuk's declaration that the just or righteous shall live by his faith was a central element in Paul's theology. ("See, he is puffed up; his desires are not upright, but the righteous will live by his faith..." Habakkuk 2:4 NIV.) Compare this with Paul's teachings in Romans 1:17: "For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith'" (NIV). Romans 1:17 had a profound influence upon Martin Luther's development of the doctrine of justification by faith alone.

SHEEP AND GOATS: Jesus used this expression in Matthew 26:31-33: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left" (NIV).

JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH ALONE: "Good works do not make a man good, but a good man does good works," states Martin Luther. Protestants believed that salvation was from God. It was the free and undeserved grace gift of Christ. By the death and resurrection of Christ, they were saved from their sin and given a new life in Christ. From this rebirth then proceeded loving acts of kindness or good works. Many Catholic theologians, on the other hand, saw good works contributing to the process of justification. "A Christian man is free from all things; he needs no work in order to be justified and saved but receives these gifts in abundance from his faith alone," states Martin Luther.

JOHN ECK: Roman Catholic theologian John Eck was Luther's sharpest opponent. They debated publicly at Leipzig, in 1519, where Luther denied the supremacy of the pope and the infallibility of general councils.

CHARLES V: Emperor Charles V was the nephew of Catherine of Aragon, Henry VIII's first wife. (In 1527, Henry requested his marriage to Catherine be annulled by the pope.) Charles bitterly opposed the reform movement. In 1529, at the Diet of Speyer, when Charles tried to stop Luther's reform movement by force, some of the princes of the German states protested. Thus, Luther's movement earned the title "Protestant."

THE DIET OF WORMS: Martin Luther refused to recant his position (concerning the supremacy of the pope and the infallibility of general councils) at the Diet of Worms (1521). For his safety, he was taken to the Wartburg Castle and placed under the protection of Frederick of Saxony. It was there that Luther translated the New Testament into the German language.

PHILIP MELANCHTHON: When Martin Luther died, Philip Melanchthon (1497-1560) took over the leadership that Luther had begun. A professor of Greek at Tübingen and then at Wittenberg in 1518, Melanchthon first met Luther. Melanchthon publicly supported Luther at the Leipzig Disputation (1519). He

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wrote the *Commonplaces (Loci Communes)*, the first book clearly describing Reformation teachings. He also developed the Augsburg Confession (1530), the Lutheran church's chief statement of faith.

JOHN CALVIN: John Calvin (1509-1564), a Frenchman, was born at Noyon, Picardy. He attended Orleans, Bourges, and the University of Paris. In Paris, Calvin was introduced to the teachings of Martin Luther. His sudden conversion came in 1533. He broke with Roman Catholicism, and went to Basil to live. In 1536, Calvin published the first of *The Institution of the Christian Religion* or (*The Institutes*). Calvin's friend, and the Reformer of Geneva, Switzerland, Guillaume Farel, persuaded Calvin to help with the Reformation movement in Geneva. But the people of French-speaking Geneva did not agree with Calvin. Both Calvin and Farel were made to leave Geneva. In Strasbourg, Calvin lived and wrote his commentary on the book of Romans. In fact, he wrote many commentaries during his lifetime. He returned to Geneva in 1541. But as a foreigner, Calvin failed to win many hearts at first. Later, John Calvin founded the Geneva Academy, a school of theology.

SALVATION COMES BY GRACE: "Wherever we find the Word of God surely preached and heard," wrote Calvin in *The Institutes*, "and the sacraments administered according to the institution of Christ, there, it is not to be doubted, is a church of God." For Calvin, all knowledge of God was to be found in the Bible. We can know God only if He chooses to be known. Salvation comes by grace, and is a free gift from God. The church was extremely important to Calvin. In Geneva, he preached daily to the people. John Calvin died in 1564.

THEODORE BEZA: Reformer Theodore Beza (1519-1605) succeeded Calvin in Geneva as leader of Reformed Protestantism. In 1559, Beza became the first rector of the Genevan Academy. He was a leading advisor to the Huguenots in France. He later wrote a biography of Calvin, *De jure magistratuum*, as well as many other writings. Under the leadership of Beza, Geneva became the international center of Reformed Protestantism.

THE ANABAPTISTS: Who were the Anabaptists? Their name means "re-baptizer" (although they didn't like this name), given to them by their opponents. And they didn't accept it. Among the reformers, the Anabaptists made the most radical attempt to renew the church. They weren't interested in simply reforming the church. They wanted to completely restore it back to the faithfulness of its earliest centuries. They truly wanted a family of brothers and sisters in Christ instead of a wealthy, powerful institution that the Roman Catholic church had become.

In sixteenth-century Zurich, the Anabaptist issue was hotly debated. The Anabaptists wanted civil government to stay out of church reform. An intense debate broke out in Zurich in 1523 about this issue. Even though their lives were constantly in danger, the Anabaptists spread quickly throughout German-speaking Europe. Protestants and Catholics alike believed the Anabaptists to be dangerous heretics who threatened the religious and social stability of Christian Europe. By 1527, they were determined to stamp out the Anabaptist movement. Thousands of Anabaptists, within a short period of time, were persecuted and put to death. A ferryman, Pieter Pietersz, was burned to death in Amsterdam (1569) simply because he made his boat available for Anabaptists to hold their services!

By the late 1520s, Anabaptism had spread far and wide. The Anabaptists called their first "synod" in 1527 at Schleithem. Leading the group was Michael Sattler, a former Benedictine prior, who was burned at the stake four months later.

For centuries, the Anabaptists were forced into withdrawal by harsh persecution. Some Anabaptists found refuge in Moravia and came to be called the "Bruderhof." Others, under the leadership of Jakob Hutter, came to be known as "Hutterites." Only three groups survived beyond the mid-sixteenth century. They were the "Brethren" in Switzerland and south Germany, the Mennonites in the Netherlands and north Germany, and the Hutterites in Moravia.

Their beliefs were considered radical at that time. They were a missionary people, sending out

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missionaries in twos and threes all over Europe. "Discipleship" was important in their teachings. It involved a Christian's daily walk with God. As one Anabaptist said: "No one can truly know Christ except he follow Him in life." They believed in congregational church authority in which all the members were baptized believers in Jesus Christ. They rejected infant baptism and believed only adults who confessed Christ should be baptized. Decision-making was to be made by the congregation. The authority of the Scriptures was to be interpreted by the consensus of the congregation. They were to help each other live out the meaning of their baptismal commitments to Christ. They wanted separation of church and state. They saw themselves as a pilgrim people. They also believed strongly in pacifism. Nations would go on warring, they believed, but "the regenerated do not go to war." While some Anabaptists participated in government, others avoided all contact with civil order.

MENNO SIMONS: Menno Simons (about 1496-1561), a former priest, was a leader among Anabaptist groups of northern Europe. He constantly visited them, and encouraged them with his preaching. Menno Simons's life was always in grave danger. Although Menno Simons did not found the movement, his Anabaptist descendants are called "Mennonites."

"HUMAN BLOOD AND THE BLOOD OF SWINE": "The regenerated do not go to war, nor engage in strife. They are the children of peace who have beaten their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks, and know of no war.... Since we are to be conformed to the image of Christ, how can we then fight our enemies with the sword?...Spears and swords of iron we leave to those who, alas, consider human blood and swine's blood of well-nigh equal value..." (Menno Simons, 1539).

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing;
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate;
On earth is not His equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be failing;
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing;
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth, His name, from age to age the same;
And He must win the battle.

And tho' this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us;
We will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph thro' us;
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure;
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours, thro' Him who with us sideth;
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still;
His kingdom is forever.

(Words and music by Martin Luther. Translated by Frederick H. Hedge, 1805-1890.)

PROGRAM 3 THE REFORMATION: DIVISION AND RENEWAL BETWEEN MEDIEVAL AND MODERN TIMES

KING HENRY VIII: In 1534, King Henry VIII proclaimed himself the head of the Church of England. The pope entitled him “Defender of the Faith” when he wrote a book against Luther in 1521. Although he remained a Catholic in doctrine, the Roman Catholic Church excommunicated the king due to his unsanctioned divorce from Queen Catherine. King Henry VIII destroyed the power of the pope and ended monasticism in England.

ARCHBISHOP THOMAS CRANMER: Cranmer (1489-1556), a godly man, helped shape the Protestant Church of England after the Reformation. Born in Nottinghamshire, educated at Cambridge University, he was summoned to Canterbury as archbishop in 1532. Lutheran in his theology, he was responsible for the Great Bible (1538), the Litany of 1545, two Prayer Books of 1549 and 1552, the *Reformation of Church Laws* (1571), the *Articles*, the *Homilies*, and *Institution of a Christian Man*. Accused of being a heretic, he spent his last years in solitary confinement. He was burned at the stake at Oxford in 1556.

AUGUSTINIAN MONKS: A “monk” is a man who has taken religious vows, including the vow of poverty and chastity, and who has given up all his possessions, devoting himself totally to a life of Scripture study and prayer. He vows to live apart from the world and usually resides with other monks. The first group of Christian monks originated in Northern Egypt in A.D. 300. Later, monks formed communities and lived in monasteries. In the twelfth and thirteenth centuries in Europe, under the rule of St. Augustine, “Augustinian monks” found monastery life less necessary. They wanted to bring spirituality into the towns where people lived. While the monks lived together under a strict spiritual rule, they also journeyed out into the cities to teach, preach, and work with people. In 1505, Martin Luther joined the “Augustinian Hermits” in Erfurt.

PSALMS. 22:1: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?” (NIV)

MATTHEW 27:46: “About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ‘Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?’—which means, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’”

THE LUTHER BIBLE: The printing press allowed the Bible to have wider circulation. In this period of history, it was unusual to write in the vernacular languages, the languages of the people. Throughout the Middle Ages, the Bible was known almost exclusively in the Latin Vulgate. The Reformers yearned to make the Bible available to all people in their own languages. Luther translated the New Testament into German in 1522, and he translated the Old Testament between 1522 and 1532. The first complete “Luther Bible,” as it was called, appeared in 1534 at Wittenberg.

HULDRYCH ZWINGLI: Born in 1484, the Swiss Reformer Zwingli was educated in Basel, Berne, and Vienna. Zwingli was deeply influenced by Erasmus, when they met in 1515. He became pastor of the Great Minster Church in Zurich, Switzerland, in 1519. In 1528, his *Commentary on True and False Religion* was published. He was married secretly to Anna Meyer and was the father of their four children. He died in the Battle of Kappel in 1531, fighting against the Catholics.

MARTIN BUCER: Martin Bucer (1491-1551), a Reformer at Strasbourg, and one of the chief statesmen among the Reformers, tried to mediate between Zwingli and Luther on the Lord’s Supper issue. A peacemaker, he wanted to unite the German and Swiss Reformed churches. He worked hard to reconcile various religious parties. His discussions with Philip Melancthon finally led to peace in the debate over the sacraments. In 1549, forced to leave Strasbourg, he traveled to Cambridge. There he advised Thomas Cranmer on *The Book of Common Prayer*. He had a great impact on the Church of England, pointing the way towards Puritanism. He died in 1551. Later, during the reign of Queen Mary, his body was exhumed and burned.

THE AGE OF REASON AND PIETY: THE CHURCH IN EARLY MODERN TIMES

SUGGESTED SUBJECTS TO HIGHLIGHT

- Age of Faith and Age of Reason
- Philosophy
- Johann Sebastian Bach
- John Bunyan
- John Milton
- Nicolas Copernicus
- Sir Isaac Newton
- Age of Enlightenment
- Voltaire
- Rationalism
- Empiricism
- John Locke
- Blaise Pascal
- Pietists
- The Wesleys
- Nikolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf
- George Whitefield
- Methodism
- William Wilberforce
- Evangelical Awakening

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

1. What was the prevailing philosophy in the Age of Faith and the Age of Reason?
2. What were the teachings of the following? (Choose two or three.) Why were they significant? How have they influenced us to this day?

- John Bunyan
- John Milton
- Nicolas Copernicus
- Sir Isaac Newton
- Voltaire
- John Locke
- Blaise Pascal
- William Perkins
- John and Charles Wesley
- Nikolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf
- George Whitefield
- William Wilberforce
- Jonathan Edwards

3. Describe the “Evangelical” or “Great Awakening.” What happened and why?

Who were the influential preachers and leaders who helped make the Awakening happen?

What are the marks of a genuine awakening?

BACKGROUND BRIEFING

AGE OF FAITH AND AGE OF REASON: In the winter of 1619-1620, Descartes, the French philosopher and orthodox Catholic, with his first principle *cogito ergo sum* ("I think, therefore I am"), ushered into civilization the Age of Reason, or Rationalism. Descartes (1596-1650) doubted everything that could be doubted. (In this wave of modern thought, the individual person becomes the ultimate reference-point.) This trend prevails to this day. Descartes was one of the first great rationalists and is regarded as the first modern philosopher.

PHILOSOPHY: Philosophy is defined as the pursuit of wisdom and a search for an understanding of values and reality by what we can observe, analyze, and intellectually reason. It is an overall attitude and disciplined system of thought on the meaning and the purpose of life. Some well-known philosophers in this particular age were René Descartes, Galileo Galilei, Nicolas Copernicus, Baruch Spinoza, David Hume, Blaise Pascal, Hugo Grotius, and John Locke.

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH: Martin Luther's influence brought about a great new tradition of music in the church. Organ music reached its peak with the work of Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750). Bach wrote mostly for the Lutheran church, and his works include more than 300 cantatas. His most ambitious works were the *Mass in B Minor* and the *St. Matthew Passion*.

JOHN BUNYAN: A Calvinist, John Bunyan (1628-1688) is remembered for his widely-read allegory, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, published in 1678. Born at Elstow, Bedfordshire, and the son of a poor man, he served in the Parliamentary army. In 1651, he met with the congregation at Bedford. After his conversion, he joined the Bedford congregation, and began to preach for them. In 1660, due to his preaching, he was thrown into prison. In prison, he wrote *Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners* (1666), *The Pilgrim's Progress*, and *The Holy War* (1682).

JOHN MILTON: The English poet John Milton (1608-74), was the author of *Paradise Lost* (1667), *Paradise Regained* (1671), and *Samson Agonistes* (1671). He wrote these great works in his retirement. Born in London, and having graduated from Christ's College, Cambridge, Milton wrote about interesting subjects such as love, politics, and religion. A Puritan and a deeply religious man, he studied the Bible intensely. Milton came to believe that "tyranny had invaded the church." He decided he could not honestly become a clergyman under the doctrines of the Church of England. (Civil discord divided England during the years from 1640 to 1660. Charles I and the bishops clashed with Parliament over church and state policies. Civil war broke out in 1642. The Puritans won, and Charles I was beheaded in 1649.)

Milton married three times. He first married Mary Powell, a 16-year-old girl who left him after a month or two. When she died in 1652, Milton married Katharine Woodcock, who died 16 months later. After he retired, he married Elizabeth Minshull (1663). In his middle forties, Milton lost his sight. About his blindness, he wrote his famous poem:

When I consider how my light is spent,
 Ere half my days, in this dark world and wide,
 And that one talent which is death to hide
 Lodged with me useless, though my soul more bent
 To serve therewith my Maker, and present
 My true account, lest he returning chide,
 "Doth God exact day-labour, light denied?"
 I fondly ask. But Patience, to prevent
 That murmur, soon replies: "God doth not need

Either man's work or his own gifts; who best
Bear his mild yoke, they serve him best. His state
Is kingly: thousands at his bidding speed,
And post o'er land and ocean without rest;
They also serve who only stand and wait."

After the restoration of Charles II in 1660, the government executed several Puritans held responsible for Charles I's death. Milton was arrested but not punished. He retired and devoted the rest of his life to writing poetry.

NICOLAS COPERNICUS: Called the founder of modern astronomy, Copernicus (1473-1543), a Polish astronomer, taught that the earth is not the center of the universe but, rather, rotates around the sun. "In the middle of all sits the sun on his throne, as upon a royal dais ruling his children, the planets which circle about him," he wrote.

SIR ISAAC NEWTON: In his *Principia Mathematica* (1687), Isaac Newton (1642-1727) set out laws in which he tried to prove that the universe was divinely ordered. He believed the power and wisdom of the Creator could be demonstrated by inquiring into nature. An English scientist, Newton is best remembered for his law of gravity and his work on the physics of light. He, himself, believed his scientific discoveries were given to him by the Holy Spirit. He regarded the understanding of Scripture as more important than his scientific work.

AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT: During the period of time between 1300 and 1700, many movements began claiming that human reason and creative power would lead to a better world. The focus shifted from God to humanity, which weakened the theology of medieval scholastics and the Reformation.

IMMANUEL KANT: Whereas Copernicus taught that the earth revolves around the sun, German philosopher, Immanuel Kant (1724-1804) placed humankind in the center of his universe and made everything else revolve around him. Kant regarded his philosophy as a "second Copernican revolution." Kant believed humanity was the starting point.

VOLTAIRE: Francois-Marie Arouet, whom we know as Voltaire (1694-1778), thought the church deceitful and corrupt. His 35-volume Encyclopedia voiced revolutionary change and Enlightenment ideas.

RATIONALISM relies on reason as the basis of religious truth. It is a source of knowledge that is superior to sense perceptions or human experience. During this time, rationalism dominated continental European philosophy.

EMPIRICISM is a theory that all knowledge originates in experience. In Britain, empiricism was the most significant philosophical movement.

JOHN LOCKE: "It is what we see, touch, taste, hear and smell that provides the basis of all knowledge," believed John Locke (1632-1704), whose main philosophical work was his *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (1690). He thought the Christian faith should also be based on experience. Locke was one of three leading British figures who reacted strongly to European rationalism (reason) and stressed empiricism (experience).

BLAISE PASCAL: Pascal (1623-1662) was born in Claremont, France, and became one of the great thinkers of the West, excelling as a mathematician, physicist, inventor, writer, and religious thinker. He invented the first workable calculating machine at age 19. Pascal became a Christian in 1654. His sister involved him with

the Jansenists. In 1657 he wrote his *Provincial Letters* to re-emphasize Augustine's doctrine of grace within the Catholic church. "The heart has its reasons," Pascal wrote, "which the reason does not know." "We come to know truth not only by reason," he wrote, "but still more so through our hearts." Pascal believed that "God can be known through Jesus Christ by an act of faith, itself given by God." He died at age 39, leaving his *Apology for the Christian Religion* unfinished.

PIETISTS: The Pietists opposed rationalism and sought revival. In Lutheran Germany, Johann Arndt (1555-1621), along with English Puritans who followed William Perkins (1558-1602), developed a devotional theology of regeneration, sanctification, and the inner life. With this theology, they set the stage for the Pietist movement. Cradled in the Dutch Reformed church in the early seventeenth century, Pietism brought renewal out of the popular rationalism of the time. Pietism flowered in Lutheran Germany, when introduced by Theodore Untereyk. Pietism re-emphasized the importance of the new birth, personal faith, and Christian experience. It restored the German church. Philip Spener (1635-1705), founder of Lutheran Pietism, published his *Pia Desideria* (Holy Desires) in 1675, a work he hoped would help remedy spiritual decay within the churches.

THE WESLEYS (SAMUEL, SUSANNA, JOHN AND CHARLES): Born to Samuel and Susanna Wesley, John (1703-1791) and Charles Wesley (1707-1788) were partners in evangelism and organizers/administrators of early Methodism. Born at Epworth in Lincolnshire, John and Charles both attended Oxford University. Charles started "The Holy Club," and John later took the Club's leadership. The brothers sailed for Georgia in 1737 on mission for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. They returned to England the next year, dissatisfied with the results of their mission. Influenced by Peter Böhler, Charles' and John's conversion experience proved the turning point of the Evangelical Revival. The brothers traveled from place to place and preached in churches, marketplaces, and commons. They preached primarily to working class people. Charles married Sarah Gwynne in 1749, and they made their home in Bristol, with Charles supervising the Methodist society which met at the New Room there. In 1771, they moved to London, where Charles shared the preaching at City Road Chapel, the headquarters of Methodism with its opening in 1778. Charles produced over 7,000 sacred songs and poems during his lifetime. His hymns added greatly to the Evangelical Revival. John Wesley traveled over 250,000 miles preaching the gospel. He also edited the *Christian Library* as well as *Notes on the New Testament*.

NIKOLAUS LUDWIG VON ZINZENDORF: Count Von Zinzendorf (1700-1760) is credited with the renewal of Moravianism in the eighteenth century. Brought up by his grandmother, Baroness von Gersdorf, Zinzendorf was sent to Francke's grammar school at Halle at age ten. He and five other Christian boys founded the "Order of the Grain of Mustard Seed" and pledged themselves to "love the whole human family" and to spread the gospel. He later studied law at Wittenberg and Utrecht and entered civil service in 1721. His conversion came in 1719 when he was moved by a painting by Domenico Feti. *Ecce Homo* showed Christ wearing the crown of thorns and its inscription read: "All this I did for you. What are you doing for me?" In 1722 he started a Moravian refugee settlement on his estate at Berthendorf and sought to promote worldwide evangelization. He was acknowledged as leader of the Moravian Brethren and consecrated as a bishop in 1737. He was the first person to use the term "ecumenical" in its modern sense. His goal was to unite all Christians in evangelism and missions.

GEORGE WHITEFIELD: The great preacher of the English Awakening, Whitefield (1714-1770) was born in Gloucester and was converted to Christ in 1735. Ordained deacon in 1736, he set sail for Georgia the next year. An effective preacher (especially in open-air evangelism), he traveled throughout Scotland, America, England, and Wales. Whitefield centered his theology on the old English Puritan themes of original sin, justification by faith, and regeneration. On his second trip to America, he arrived in New England in September, 1740, and preached for six weeks. The results? The American colonies experienced an "awakening." Whitefield roused the ministers to revival. "The reason why congregations have been so

dead,” Whitefield bluntly explained, “is because dead men preach to them.” Whitefield left his mark on America, for out of this movement came vast revival, institutes of higher education, and a zeal for missionary and evangelism outreach. Despite some theological differences with John Wesley, the two remained good friends and allies in the Evangelical Awakening.

METHODISM: Methodism began as a society, not as a church or sect. Born within the Church of England, the society met in London (in late 1739) in a cannon foundry. When City Road Chapel opened in 1778, Methodism found a new headquarters there. The sole condition for prospective members was “a desire to flee from the wrath to come, to be saved from their sins.” The Methodist basic theological conviction was “that justification by faith is the doctrine of the Church as well as of the Bible.” To this they added an emphasis that salvation is for all and stressed the assurance of the Holy Spirit and Scriptural holiness.

WILLIAM WILBERFORCE: Wilberforce (1759-1833) is best remembered for his campaign against the slave trade. At the age of 14, he wrote a letter to a local newspaper attacking the evils of slavery. Educated at St. John’s College, Cambridge, Wilberforce read Philip Doddridge’s *Rise and Progress of Religion in the Soul*, a book which caused him to undergo a spiritual crisis. He emerged a believer in “real Christianity” centered on Christ. As a member of Parliament (until he retired in 1825), he worked for parliamentary resolutions against the British slave trade as well as many other political reforms. In 1813, Wilberforce helped to open India to missionaries.

EVANGELICAL AWAKENING: Also called the “Evangelical” or “Methodist Revival,” and, in North American colonies, the “Great Awakening.” Under the preaching of Jonathan Edwards in 1734, the Great Awakening began in Northampton, Massachusetts. It was a time (1730s and 1740s) of spiritual renewal and revival. The movement reached its height in New England between 1740 and 1743, the time of George Whitefield’s visit.

A CITY SET ON A HILL: CHRISTIANITY IN THE NEW WORLD

SUGGESTED SUBJECTS TO HIGHLIGHT

- John Winthrop
- Puritans and Separatists
- Queen Elizabeth I
- Book of Common Prayer
- King James I
- John Robinson
- William Bradford
- Cotton Mather
- Roger Williams
- Quakers
- Jonathan Edwards
- Revivalism
- The uniqueness of the American experiment
- Religious liberty
- Ann Hutchison's unusual role in early America

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

1. Research and describe the settlement of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.
2. Discuss the differences between the Puritans and the Separatists.
3. Research and describe the Plymouth colony settlement.
4. Who was Cotton Mather?

William Bradford?

Jonathan Edwards?

5. What did the Quakers believe, and how did they get their name?
6. What surprised you about Christianity in colonial America?
7. What was so unusual about Roger Williams, the founder of Rhode Island?

Why was it called the "latrine of New England?"

8. If America was founded on Christian principles and in a quest for religious liberty, how do you explain the many examples of religious oppression in the colonies?
9. Was there "separation of church and state" in early America?

BACKGROUND BRIEFING

JOHN WINTHROP: The Puritan governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, Winthrop (1588-1649) was born in Edwardstone, Suffolk, England. In 1602 he attended Cambridge University. Winthrop settled Boston and helped establish a Congregational church there among the colony members.

PURITANS AND SEPARATISTS: Some English Protestants desired a fully Reformed church when Queen Elizabeth I established the Church of England. The people who worked to purify and reform the church were called "Puritans." Working within the Church of England, the Elizabethan Puritans, with leaders Thomas Cartwright (1535-1603) and William Perkins (1558-1602), sought changes. But Elizabeth I and King James I were against the Puritans. "I will make them conform themselves," James threatened, "or I will harry them out of the land, or else do worse." A small Separatist movement grew alongside the main Puritan group, who still survived within the Church of England. Led by Robert Browne (1550-1633) and Robert Harrison (died about 1585), these Separatist Puritans formed an independent congregation at Norwich, withdrawing completely from the Anglican church. Imprisoned and harassed, the Puritans were driven to the Netherlands. Eventually, the Puritans, or "Pilgrim Fathers," led by John Robinson (about 1576-1625), emigrated from Leiden, Holland, to New England via Plymouth. One of the Separatist groups in Amsterdam later formed the nucleus of an early English Baptist congregation.

QUEEN ELIZABETH I: Born in London in 1533, Elizabeth was the daughter of King Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. She succeeded her sister Mary, who was Roman Catholic, when Mary died in 1558. Elizabeth re-established the Church of England, restoring and permanently bringing Protestantism to England during her long reign (1558-1603). She gradually replaced Catholic church leaders with Protestants. The chief apologist for the Anglican church under Elizabeth was Richard Hooker, whose *Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity* describe the episcopal government and liturgical worship of the Elizabethan Settlement. Elizabeth died in 1603.

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER: This collection of church doctrine, ordinances, prayers, and forms for the sacraments was used by the Church of England. Its principal architect was Thomas Cranmer.

KING JAMES I: James I (1566-1625) was the son of Mary, Queen of Scots, and Lord Darnley. When his mother abdicated in 1567, he became King James VI of Scotland. When his cousin Queen Elizabeth I of England died in 1603, he became king of England. An unwise king, James ruled England harshly. King Henry IV of France called him "the wisest fool in Christendom." He was adamant against the English Puritans and Separatists. When the first permanent English colony was established in Virginia in 1607, it was named Jamestown in his honor. James sponsored a new translation of the Bible upon request of the Puritans. In 1611, the Authorized Version (or King James Version) replaced the Geneva Bible.

JOHN ROBINSON: John Robinson (about 1576-1625), the pilgrims' pastor, led the "Pilgrim Fathers" from Leiden to New England. He, himself, did not make the journey. "The Lord has more truth yet to break forth out of his Holy Word," Pastor Robinson told the pilgrims as they set sail for America. Robinson's best-known work was his *Justification of Separation from the Church of England*.

WILLIAM BRADFORD: The second governor of Plymouth Colony, Bradford (1590-1657) wrote *Of Plimoth Plantation*. The book tells the story of the Pilgrims from the time of their persecution in England until 1646. Born in Yorkshire, England, Bradford tried to escape with the Separatists to The Netherlands but was put in prison. He reached The Netherlands, however, in 1609 and settled with the others in Leiden. He sailed to America on the Mayflower in 1620, and helped found Plymouth Colony.

COTTON MATHER: Mather (1663-1728), born in Boston and educated at Harvard, was a leading pastor and scholar of early American Puritanism. He wrote more than 450 books. The son of Increase Mather, he was ordained in 1685 and became his father's associate in Boston's North Church. When his father died in 1723, Cotton Mather succeeded him as pastor. He helped found Yale College. Cotton Mather's book, *Essays to Do Good*, greatly influenced statesman, writer, and inventor Benjamin Franklin.

ROGER WILLIAMS: A clergyman and founder of the colony of Rhode Island, Roger Williams (1603?-1683) advocated religious freedom as a right of the people. Williams was born in London and was educated at Cambridge University. Williams arrived in Boston on February 5, 1631, and in 1633, he became minister of the church at Salem. Williams fled into the wilderness in January, 1636, securing land from the Indians, and founded Providence, later the capital of Rhode Island. From 1654 to 1657, Williams served as president of the Rhode Island Colony.

QUAKERS: After years of searching for truth, George Fox began to gather the "Society of Friends" and wrote down his experiences in his Journal. A judge once laughed at Fox and told him, "You folk are the tremblers; you are the quakers." The name "quaker" stuck, although the Quakers previously called themselves "children of light," "publishers of truth," "the people of God in scorn called quakers," or simply "friends." They later took the name "Society of Friends." Fox felt the church had become a public service managed by state appointed officials and that the church had become apostate. Fox began preaching to thousands of people in the open air, and evangelists of the Quaker movement spread all across England. Many Quakers in New England were imprisoned, and three Quakers were hanged on Boston Common (1660-1661). A special relationship of trust existed between the Indians and the Quakers, and many of them became Quakers. Oliver Cromwell once remarked that in the Quakers he had found a people whom he could not influence "either with gifts, honours, offices, or places."

JONATHAN EDWARDS: Under Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758), a great American philosopher, the Awakening broke out in Northampton, Massachusetts. Born in Connecticut a pastor's son, he studied at Yale, where he became a senior tutor in 1724. His *Personal Narrative* (1739) describes a deep religious experience which "gave him a new awareness of God's absolute sovereignty, and of his own dependence on God." In 1727, he became the associate pastor of the Northampton Congregational Church in Massachusetts. (Edwards followed his grandfather, Solomon Stoddard, as pastor of the church. Stoddard has been called the "first great revivalist in New England.") Under Edwards' preaching, in 1735, came the Awakening. After a conflict concerning church ordinances, his church dismissed him. He then became a missionary to the Indians and white settlers of Stockbridge. At Stockbridge, the Calvinistic Edwards wrote his most important work: *Freedom of the Will* (1754). In January, 1758, Edwards became President of the College of New Jersey at Princeton but died of smallpox in March.

REVIVALISM: In the 1730s and 40s, "deadening formality was replaced by a fresh wind of the Spirit." Its roots lay in the Pietist movement in Europe as well as in Puritanism. In North America, the "Great Awakening" began in Northampton, Massachusetts, under Jonathan Edwards. However, the major influence of revivalism came from George Whitefield. He arrived in New England in September, 1740, and preached for six weeks to enormous crowds. More than 150 churches were affected by the Awakening, not only in New England, but also in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. Churches, during this revival, began to show uncustomary concern for evangelism. David Brainerd, a product of the revival, became the apostle to the Red Indians. Denominational barriers were broken down and a new spirit of cooperation prevailed.

INTO ALL THE WORLD: THE CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT IN AN AGE OF UNCERTAINTY

SUGGESTED SUBJECTS TO HIGHLIGHT

- The Bastille
- The Berlin Wall
- William Carey
- The “Great Commission”
- Infanticide
- *Sati*
- Alexander Duff
- David Livingstone
- Hudson Taylor
- Karl Marx and Friedreich Engels
- Charles Darwin
- Sigmund Freud
- Friedreich Nietzsche
- H. Richard Niebuhr and Reinhold Niebuhr
- Karl Barth
- Matthias Grunewald
- Adolf Hitler
- Heinrich Himmler
- Martin Niemoller
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- Holocaust
- Wolfhart Pannenberg
- John XXIII
- John Paul II
- Joseph Ratzinger
- Hans Kung

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

1. Research the building and the tearing down of the Berlin Wall and discuss.

2. Describe the work of William Carey.

What did he accomplish?

3. If a copy is available, read the *Communist Manifesto* and discuss the beliefs of its authors, Karl Marx and Friedreich Engels.

4. How has the work of Charles Darwin affected Christianity to this day?

5. What is your personal opinion of the theory of evolution?

6. In what ways has Sigmund Freud influenced the whole of modern psychology?

What is your personal opinion of Freud?

7. Describe the life of Adolf Hitler and its results.

8. Research and discuss the Holocaust.

9. What influence has John Paul II had on worldwide Christianity?

How do you think he will be remembered?

10. What is the state of spiritual health of the church today?

11. Where do you see God at work today?

BACKGROUND BRIEFING

BASTILLE: Begun in 1370 as a fortress, the Bastille later became a prison. On July 14, 1789, at the beginning of the French Revolution, a mob stormed the Bastille. It was demolished soon after.

BERLIN WALL: In August, 1961, the Communist government of East Germany cut off access to West Berlin by erecting a barbed-wire barricade known as the “iron curtain.” The wall stood for more than 25 years. In the late 1980s, however, many East Germans began to protest the wall. In May, 1989, the government of Hungary began to dismantle the “iron curtain” that marked the border with Austria. On November 9, 1989, all restrictions on emigration were lifted. The next day, hundreds of thousands passed through entry points in the Berlin Wall. In late December, the Brandenburg Gate section of the wall was opened to free passage.

WILLIAM CAREY: Born at Paulerspury, Northamptonshire, Carey, an English Baptist, was converted in 1779. He became pastor of Baptist churches Moulton (1786) and then Harvey Land in Leicester (1789). He was deeply influenced by Jonathan Edwards’ theology. Carey published *An Enquiry into the Obligation of Christians to use Means for the Conversion of the Heathen* in 1792. He took Jesus’ “Great Commission” very seriously, and in October 1792, he helped found the Baptist Missionary Society, the first foreign missionary organization created by the Evangelical Revival. Carey and his wife, Dorothy, and children sailed to India the following year. In 1799, Joshua Marshman and William Ward joined Carey at Serampore, and for the next quarter-century, the three men worked together to organize a network of mission stations in and beyond Bengal. Carey also translated the New Testament into Bengali and, in his lifetime, accomplished much for the Gospel in India.

THE “GREAT COMMISSION”: Jesus gave his disciples this command (that we call the “Great Commission”) in Matthew 28:16-20: “Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age’” (NIV).

INFANTICIDE: “Infanticide” (Latin for “child murder”) is the killing of an infant at birth. Sacrifice of the firstborn child was common among tribal groups in India until the 19th century. Many anthropologists believe that infanticide served as a method of controlling population size. Often only female and sickly or deformed children were killed.

SATI (also spelled “Suttee”): *Sati* (Sanskrit for “faithful wife”) was the custom of a Hindu widow willingly being cremated on the funeral pyre of her husband as an indication of her devotion to him. The act was supposedly voluntary and was intended to ensure the continued union of the couple in the afterlife. In reality, *sati* permitted the division of the husband’s property without the wife’s interference. William Carey (1761-1834), missionary to India, took a leading part in the campaign to abolish *sati*, which succeeded in 1829.

ALEXANDER DUFF: Duff arrived in India in 1830 and chose to work in the area of higher education. He felt that the teaching of science, philosophy and Christian doctrine would undermine the foundations of Hinduism. Drawn to him were young Hindu intellectuals who were disillusioned with old corruptions and institutions. But most of their students remained non-Christian and Hinduism did not crumble, as Duff had hoped.

DAVID LIVINGSTONE: Livingstone, famous missionary and explorer, was born in Scotland in 1813. As a medical doctor, he served under the London Missionary Society (starting in South Africa) from 1841 to 1856. During this time (1851 to 1856), Livingstone walked across Africa from west to east. He recorded his travels in *Missionary Travels and Researches in South Africa* (1857). In 1858, he led a British government expedition to explore the River Zambesi, but it was considered a failure. He landed in Zanzibar in 1866 and worked with the East African interior until his death in 1873. During his missionary work, he preached the gospel, fought social ills such as the slave trade, and relieved many peoples' sufferings. After his death, the Church of Scotland and the Free Church of Scotland opened Central African missions and continued his work in Africa.

From David Livingstone's personal journal: "I place no value on anything I have or may possess, except in relation to the kingdom of Christ. If anything will advance the interests of the kingdom, it shall be given away or kept, only as by giving or keeping it I shall most promote the glory of him to whom I owe all my hopes in time and eternity."

HUDSON TAYLOR: James Hudson Taylor (1832-1905) went to China in 1853 as a missionary with the Chinese Evangelization Society. After severing ties with the Chinese Evangelization Society, Taylor stayed in China, working as an independent missionary until 1860, when bad health forced him to return home. In 1865, he completed his medical training. In 1865, he founded the China Inland Mission, the first interdenominational foreign mission. Taylor's dream was to bring the gospel to every unevangelized province of China. He relied only on prayer for financial support.

KARL MARX (1818-1883) AND FRIEDREICH ENGELS (1820-1895): Authors of the *Communist Manifesto* (1848), the document of socialism and communism, Marx and Engels claimed that the capitalists, or bourgeois, had enslaved the workingmen, or proletariat. They urged the proletariat to revolt and set up a planned economy in which the government would own all property. Marx and Engels wrote "The Communists disdain to conceal their views and aims. They openly declare that their ends can be attained only by the forcible overthrow of all existing conditions. Let the ruling classes tremble at a communist revolution. The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win. Working men of all countries, unite!" Engels, born in Barmen, Germany, also wrote *The Condition of the Working Class in England* in 1844 and *The Peasants' War in Germany* in 1850. Marx, the German writer and social philosopher wrote *Das Kapital*. The document became the guidebook of the Communist movement.

CHARLES DARWIN: The crisis of the theory of evolution came to a head when naturalist Charles Darwin (1809-1882) published his *The Origin of Species* (in 1859), and its sequel, *The Descent of Man* (in 1871). The idea of evolution wasn't new but had been advocated by ancient Greek philosopher, Anaximander. Charles Lyell had published *The Principles of Geology* in the 1830s, and Robert Chambers' *The Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation* was published in 1844. The evolutionists rejected the Bible's creation story in Genesis 1 and said that the world had evolved over millions of years, possibly from a single prototype being. Darwin set out the principle of natural selection or "the survival of the fittest." Needless to say, his theory of evolution was received with mixed reviews.

SIGMUND FREUD: "Religion is an attempt to get control over the sensory world in which we are placed, by means of the wish-world, which we have developed inside us as a result of biological and psychological necessities," wrote psychologist Sigmund Freud (1856-1939). An atheist, Freud believed that all knowledge comes through the sciences. He described religion as "the universal obsessional neurosis of humanity." Freud's ideas have influenced the whole of modern psychology.

FRIEDREICH NIETZSCHE: "The most important of more recent events — that 'God is dead,' that the belief in the Christian God has become unworthy of belief — already begins to cast its first shadows over Europe," wrote Nietzsche (1844-1900). In the 1930s, the Nazis adopted Nietzsche as a prophet of their new

order. Nietzsche regarded himself as a “prophet of the death of God” and a spokesman for “liberated humanity.” [Note: The most uncompromising writer on the death of God would be American, Thomas J. J. Altizer. Drawing his inspiration from Nietzsche (also Hegel and Blake), he asserts that God died when Christ died on the cross.]

H. RICHARD NIEBUHR AND REINHOLD NIEBUHR: H. Richard Niebuhr (1894-1962) criticized liberal theology. “A God without wrath brought men without sin into a kingdom without judgement through the ministration of a Christ without a cross,” he wrote. His brother, Reinhold Niebuhr (1893-1971), was the most important theologian in America in the 1930s and 1940s. A pastor in Detroit, he found liberalism and moral idealism inadequate for the pastoral problems he faced. He was particularly concerned with social and political ethics. He was influenced by Kierkegaard and Karl Barth. Niebuhr founded the Fellowship of Socialist Christians. In 1932, he wrote his first major work, *Moral Man and Immoral Society*. He wrote *The Nature and Destiny of Man* in 1941-43. He stressed that the final answer to the human problem lay beyond history in the love of God and the cross of Christ.

KARL BARTH: Karl Barth was born in Basel, Switzerland, on May 10, 1886. He is considered the greatest Protestant theologian of the 20th century and possibly the greatest since the Reformation. He studied at the universities of Bern, Berlin, Tübingen, and Marburg. He was a pastor in Switzerland between 1909 and 1921. Between 1921 and 1935, Barth taught at Göttingen, Münster, and Bonn. With the rise of Hitler, Barth emerged as a leader of the church opposition to Nazi control. He expressed this opposition in the Barmen Declaration of 1934. From 1935 to 1962 (his retirement), Barth taught at Basel. Barth’s commentary on Romans (1919) marked a break with liberalism. The volume dealt with the sovereignty of God, God’s grace and revelation, and human finiteness and sinfulness. During World War I, he became convinced that liberal theology was bankrupt. He was influenced greatly by Luther and Calvin and Kierkegaard. “The Gospel falls upon man as God’s own mighty Word, questioning him down to the bottom of his being, uprooting him from his securities and satisfactions, and therefore tearing clean asunder all the relations that keep him prisoner within his own ideals in order that he may be genuinely free for God and for his wonderful new work of grace in Jesus Christ,” he wrote. Barth died on December 9, 1968.

MATTHIAS GRÜNEWALD: Born Mathis Gothart in Würzburg, Germany, Grünewald was one of the greatest artists of the German Renaissance. Grünewald (1475?-1528?) is known primarily as the painter of the *Isenheim Altarpiece*, one of the world’s greatest paintings. The altarpiece is about eight feet high. It is composed of a number of panels which are hinged together so that they swing open and reveal sculptured figures behind them. When the panels are closed, the crucifixion appears on the outside, with other religious scenes on the inside panels.

ADOLF HITLER: Hitler ruled Germany from 1933 to 1945. He established a brutal totalitarian regime under the banner of National socialism, or Nazism. His rule led to World War II, culminated in Germany’s defeat, and reordered world power relationships. Hitler was born on April 20, 1889, in Austria. In hopes of becoming an artist, Hitler traveled to Vienna in 1907 but was met with failure. In 1913, he went to Munich and served in the Bavarian sixteenth Regiment during World War I. His political rise began in 1919. Author of *Mein Kampf*, Hitler emerged as the NSDAP’s (National Socialist German Workers’ Party) leader in 1925. Hitler was named chancellor on January 30, 1933. In August 1934, Hitler adopted the title of “Führer” (or supreme leader) of the Third Reich. As Führer, Hitler established the “New Order” in occupied Europe, a system based on terror, forced labor, and concentration camps. Under the cover of war, he began the “Final solution of the Jewish Question,” which began the Holocaust. The disintegration of the Third Reich and the end of the Fascist era began when on April 30, 1945, a defeated Hitler committed suicide.

HEINRICH HIMMLER: “We shall not rest until we have rooted out Christianity,” wrote Heinrich Himmler (1900-1945), one of the most sinister leaders of Nazi Germany. Head of the German police, he ordered the

deaths of millions of persons. Born in Munich, he was an early and faithful follower of Adolf Hitler. He committed suicide in 1945 after Allied troops captured him.

MARTIN NIEMÖLLER: Friedrich Gustav Emil Martin Niemöller was born January 1, 1892. Like Karl Barth, Niemöller, a Protestant, opposed the National Socialism of Germany. Educated at Munster, he was a submarine commander during World War I. Niemöller was pastor of the Berlin-Dahlem church in 1931. When Hitler came to power in 1933, Niemöller preached against the neopagan regime. He also formed the Pastors' Emergency League (1933), which became the German Confessing Church in 1934. It was at the Synod of Barmen in May, 1934, that the German Confessing Church issued a declaration openly declaring its resistance to Hitler and the Nazis. Niemöller was arrested in 1937 and sent to Sachsenhausen and then to Dachau. He survived his imprisonment and became president of the territorial church of Hesse and Nassau, and president of the World Council of Churches (1961-68). Niemöller died on March 6, 1984.

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER: A German Lutheran pastor and theologian, born on February 4, 1906, Bonhoeffer was imprisoned at Buchenwald and executed on April 9, 1945. Bonhoeffer believed that Christian discipleship meant costly involvement in modern secular society. Greatly influenced by Karl Barth, Bonhoeffer studied theology at Berlin. He began his ministry as the Nazi party rose to power in Germany. Bonhoeffer joined the Confessing Church, which opposed Hitler. He taught in Berlin. On a lecture tour in the United States at the outbreak of World War II, he immediately returned to Germany. He joined a group of conspirators who worked for the downfall of Hitler. His best-known works are *The Cost of Discipleship* and *Letters and Papers from Prison*.

HOLOCAUST: "Holocaust" is an Old Testament sacrificial term used by historians to describe the massacre of 6 million Jews by the German Nazi regime during World War II. Adolf Hitler wanted the Jews removed from Germany, and between 1933 and 1938, the Nazis began persecuting the Jews, and building the first concentration camps at Oranienburg, Buchenwald, and Dachau. During 1942 through 1945, Jews represented more than half of those exterminated as "undesirables" in concentration camps. Methods of killing at Auschwitz and other camps included cyanide gas, electrocution, phenol injections, flamethrowers, and hand grenades. When World War II ended, two-third of Europe's Jews had been murdered.

WOLFHART PANNENBERG: Born on October 2, 1928, Pannenberg studied under Karl Jaspers and Karl Barth. He began teaching systematic theology at the University of Munich in 1967, where he still teaches today. His works include *Basic Questions in Theology: Collected Essays, Faith and Reality, The Idea of God and Human Freedom, Jesus — God and Man, Theology and the Kingdom of God, Theology and the Philosophy of Science, What Is Man?*, and *Anthropology in Theological Perspective*.

JOHN XXIII: Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli served as pope from 1958 to 1963. He began his career in the Vatican diplomatic corps in 1925. Pope Pius XI named him apostolic delegate to Turkey and Greece in 1935. After serving as nuncio to France and Vatican observer at UNESCO, he was made a cardinal (named as patriarch of Venice) in 1953. As pope, he steered the Roman Catholic church toward the goal of reunion with other Christians and in 1960 created the Secretariat for Christian Unity. John XXIII was born on November 25, 1881, and died on June 3, 1963.

JOHN PAUL II: Born Karol Josef Wojtyla, on May 18, 1920, he is the first Polish pope and the first non-Italian pope elected since the 16th century (in 456 years). He was born to a Polish army officer in Wadowice, Poland, and attended an underground seminary during the World War II German occupation. He later studied in Rome and at the University of Krakow.

Wojtyla was:

- ordained a priest in 1946,
- appointed professor of ethics at the University of Lublin (1956),

- consecrated bishop (1958),
- became archbishop of Krakow (1964),
- made a cardinal (1967),
- elected pope (October 16, 1978).

As pope, he is committed to justice and peace, and has encouraged a social order that encourages human dignity. He has criticized the injustices of both Communism and capitalism. He has also sought to affirm the identity of Roman Catholicism by implementing the directives of the Second Vatican Council. He has condemned homosexuality (1986) as well as new medical technologies that deal with human reproduction (1987). He has survived two assassination attempts: St. Peter's Square (1981) and Portugal (1982).

JOSEPH RATZINGER: Joseph Alois Ratzinger was born April 16, 1927. A German churchman, he was a professor of theology until he became archbishop of Munich-Freising and a cardinal in 1977. In 1981, he was named by Pope John Paul II to head the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (a body charged with keeping and protecting Catholic orthodoxy). In 1985, he aroused controversy with the publication of *The Ratzinger Report*.

HANS KÜNG: Born March 19, 1928, Küng first gained recognition when he published his doctoral dissertation showing the convergence in thought between Karl Barth and the Council of Trent. A Swiss Roman Catholic theologian and professor at the University of Tübingen, Küng was censured by the Vatican. Pope John Paul II objected to Küng's questioning of basic Catholic doctrines. Thus, Küng was dismissed from Tübingen's faculty of Catholic theology in 1979 but given the director position of the university's Institute of Ecumenical Research. His popular book *The Council, Reform, and Reunion* (1960) appeared on the eve of the Second Vatican Council. Other works include: *An Inquiry* (1971), *Does God Exist?* (1980), *Theology for the Third Millennium* (1988), and *Reforming the Church Today* (1990).

OTHER WORLD EVENTS HAPPENING AT THAT TIME IN HISTORY

This section gives some of the other events happening at that time in the world. This information is more complete than “Important Dates to Remember” in the participant’s workbook, and may prove helpful in leading the discussions.

B.C.

- 510: The last Roman King Tarquinius Seperbus is expelled.
- 509: Rome becomes a republic.
- 507: Cleisthenes introduces democracy to Athens.
- 500: Etruscan King Lars Porsena besieges Rome.
- 494: Cleomenes I of Sparta defeats city of Argos in Greece.
- 493: Rome concludes an alliance with the Latin League.
- 480: Siddhartha Gautam, the Buddha, dies in India.
- 480: The Greeks defeat the Persian navy at Salamis.
- 465: Xerxes is assassinated.
- 450: The La Tene Period begins in Central Europe.
- 447: The building of the Parthenon begins in Athens.
- 404: Egypt becomes independent from Persia.
- 404: Sparta conquers Athens; assumes leadership of Greece.
- 399: Socrates is executed.
- 390: Gallic King Brennus sacks Rome.
- 359: Phillip II becomes king of Macedonia.
- 341: The Persians reconquer Egypt.
- 250: Indian emperor makes Buddhism the state religion.
- 221: China unified under Shih Huang-ti.
- 210: Hannibal attacks Romans in Spain.
- 215: Construction of the Great Wall of China begins.
- 200: The Sadducees sect begins to flourish.
- 100: The Anasazi culture begins to flourish in North America.
- 60: Pompey, Crassns, and Julius Caesar form the first Roman Triumvirate.
- 58: The Gallic Wars begin.
- 57: The Kingdom of Silla is established in Korea.
- 55: Caesar’s Roman legions invade Britain.
- 46: Caesar is appointed dictator of Rome.
- 37: Herod the Great rules Judea under Roman appointment.
- 18: The Kingdom of Paekche is established in Korea.
- 9: Chinese emperor Wang Mang founds the Hsin dynasty.
- 6: Jesus Christ is born.

A.D.

- 27: Jesus is baptized by John.
- 28: John the Baptist is executed.
- 30: Jesus is crucified.
- 32: St. Paul’s conversion.
- 43: City of London is founded.
- 45: St. Paul begins his missionary travels.
- 64: Rome is devastated by fire.

- 67: Sts. Peter and Paul are martyred in Rome.
- 68: Buddhism is introduced into China.
- 68: Roman emperor Nero commits suicide.
- 70: The Herod dynasty ends in Judea.
- 73: The Romans conquer Masada, the last Jewish stronghold.
- 79: Mt. Vesuvius erupts and buries Pompeii.
- 130: The Taoist religion is accepted in China.
- 201: Empress Jingo reigns as regent in Japan.
- 269: The great library at Alexandria is burned.
- 285: Confucianism is introduced into Japan.
- 316: The Huns invade northern China.
- 350: The Huns invade Persia and India.
- 360: The Japanese invade Korea.
- 372: Buddhism is introduced into Korea.
- 376: Huns invade Russia.
- 401: Pope Innocent I claims universal power over the Roman church.
- 432: St. Patrick’s Christian mission reaches Ireland.
- 452: Venice is founded by Huns refugees.
- 455: Skandagupta becomes emperor of India.
- 470: Mayan urban civilization flourishes in southern Mexico.
- 470: The Huns withdraw from Europe.
- 478: The first Shinto shrines are built in Japan.
- 493: Frankish King Clovis becomes first barbarian ruler to be baptized.
- 500: The colonial period of the Hohokam culture begins in North America.
- 523: Hilderic becomes the Vandal king of North Africa.
- 538: Buddhism is introduced into Japan from Korea.
- 541: Bubonic Plague ravages Europe.
- 572: War begins between Persia and Byzantium.
- 589: The Visigoths in Spain are converted to Christianity.
- 590: Gregory I becomes first monk to be elected as pope.
- 600: Smallpox spreads from India to Europe.
- 619: The Persians conquer Egypt.
- 622: The Muslim era begins with the flight of Muhammad from Mecca to Medina.
- 630: A holy war by Muslims leads to the conquest of Mecca.
- 642: Arabs conquer Syria, Mesopotamia, and Egypt.
- 645: Buddhism reaches Tibet from India.
- 688: Constructions begins of the Dome of the Rock mosque in Jerusalem.
- 695: The Jews are persecuted in Spain.

OTHER WORLD EVENTS HAPPENING AT THAT TIME IN HISTORY

- 700: First Pueblo period begins in North America.
700: The Arabs capture Tunis, exterminating Christianity in North Africa.
700: The rise of the empire of Ghana begins in Africa.
711: The Moors invade Spain.
789: Vikings begin their attack on England.
800: Irish monks reach Iceland.
845: The Vikings sack Paris.
846: The Vikings sack Rome.
851: An earthquake devastates Rome.
906: Civil war begins in China.
909: A Benedictine abbey is founded at Cluny in France.
966: The Poles convert to Christianity.
981: Eric the Red discovers Greenland.
988: Vladimir I of Kiev introduces Eastern Christianity to Russia.
995: Olaf I conquers Norway and proclaims it a Christian kingdom.
1000: Christianity reaches Greenland and Iceland.
1000: Sancho III rules all of Christian Spain.
1000: The canonization of saints is formalized by the Christian church.
1040: Macbeth becomes king of Scotland.
1050: Construction of Westminster Abbey begins.
1079: Building of Winchester Cathedral begins in England.
1096: The First Christian Crusade begins against the Muslims.
1098: The first Cistercian monastery is founded by St. Robert.
1099: The Crusaders capture Jerusalem.
1147: The Moors are expelled from Lisbon by the Christian Portuguese.
1163: Notre Dame Cathedral is begun; flying buttresses are used for the first time.
1170: Archbishop Thomas Becket is murdered.
1175: Building of Strasbourg Cathedral begins in Germany.
1187: Saladin recaptures Jerusalem from the Crusaders.
1188: The Third Crusade begins.
1202: The Fourth Crusade begins.
1217: The Fifth Crusade begins.
1231: Pope Gregory IX institutes the papal Inquisition.
1256: The order of Augustinian Hermits is founded.
1291: Switzerland is founded.
1297: William Wallace expels the English from Scotland.
1309: Pope Clement V moves the papal court from Rome to France.
1333: Civil war breaks out in Japan.
1337: The 100-Years' War between England and France begins.
1347: "Black Death" arrives in Europe and kills a third of the population.
1364: Polish King Casimir III founds Krakow University.
1377: Pope Gregory XI returns the papacy to Rome.
1381: The Peasants' Revolt begins in England.
1407: Civil war begins in France.
1429: The French under Joan of Arc defeat the English.
1431: Joan of Arc is burned as a witch.
1438: The Inca empire is established in Peru.
1450: The Portuguese begin the West African slave trade.
1453: 100-Years' War ends.
1455: The Gutenberg Bible becomes the first book printed with movable type.
1455: Wars of the Roses begin in England.
1473: Building of the Sistine Chapel begins in Rome.
1492: Christopher Columbus sails from Spain to the New World.
1501: Amerigo Vespucci explores Brazil.
1503: Leonardo da Vinci begins painting the *Mona Lisa*.
1508: Michelangelo paints ceiling of Sistine Chapel in Rome.
1523: Gustav I becomes king of Sweden.
1529: Ottoman Turks besiege Vienna.
1531: Religious war begins in Switzerland; Zwingli is killed.
1533: Henry VIII divorces Catherine of Aragon.
1533: The Church of England breaks with Rome.
1535: Thomas More is executed.
1536: William Tyndale is burned at the stake for heresy.
1540: Henry VIII executes Thomas Cromwell.
1540: The Order of Jesuits is inaugurated under Ignatius of Loyola.
1541: Geneva becomes the center of Calvinism.
1548: Francis Xavier founds Jesuit mission in Japan.
1553: Mary I ("Bloody Mary") becomes queen of England.
1554: Catholic restoration begins in England under Mary I.
1555: 300 English Protestants are burned at the stake.
1555: The Peace of Augsburg gives German princes a right to chose Catholicism or Lutheranism.
1556: An earthquake in China kills 830,000.
1556: Thomas Cranmer is executed by Mary I.
1559: Calvinist preacher John Knox returns to Scotland to lead Protestant struggle.
1560: Puritanism begins in England.
1562: Religious wars break out in France between Protestant Huguenots and Catholics.
1562: Sir John Hawkins begins slave trade between Africa and West Indies.
1576: Henry III outlaws Protestantism in France.
1578: The Christian catacombs are rediscovered in Rome.
1585: Roanoke Island in North Carolina is settled as first English colony in Virginia.
1585: Mary, Queen of Scots, is executed.
1587: Japanese leader Hideyoshi bans Christian missionaries.
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OTHER WORLD EVENTS HAPPENING AT THAT TIME IN HISTORY

- 1588: Spanish Armada is defeated by the English navy.
1591: Roanoke colony dies out in North Carolina.
1598: The Edict of Nantes grants French Huguenots equal rights with Catholics.
1600: The Baroque period in art and architecture begins in Italy.
1603: Queen Elizabeth I dies.
1607: John Smith founds first English colony at Jamestown, Virginia.
1608: Galileo assembles an astronomical telescope.
1609: Johannes Kepler publishes his first law of planetary motion.
1610: Maximilian of Bavaria forms Catholic League to oppose the Protestant Union.
1616: Smallpox decimates Indian population in New England.
1616: Catholic church issues an edict against Copernicanism.
1618: Catholic and Protestant conflict begins the Thirty-Years' War.
1619: Dutch ships bring first Negro slaves to colony of Virginia.
1622: Indians massacre 347 settlers in Virginia.
1623: First English settlement is founded in New Hampshire.
1627: The Huguenots revolt against Cardinal Richelieu.
1628: Puritans under John Endecott settle at Salem, Massachusetts.
1630: John Winthrop founds Puritan settlement at Boston.
1633: An English colony is established in Connecticut.
1633: Galileo is imprisoned for heresy.
1637: Pequot Indians are decimated during first Indian War in New England.
1639: The first North American printing press is established in Cambridge, Massachusetts.
1641: Irish Catholics revolt against Protestants in Ulster.
1642: The English Civil War begins.
1643: The New England confederation is formed against the Indians, Dutch, and French.
1645: Blaise Pascal invents the adding machine.
1646: English Civil War ends.
1648: George Fox founds the Quakers.
1649: Oliver Cromwell suppresses a Catholic rebellion in Ireland.
1654: Queen Christina of Sweden abdicates and becomes a Roman Catholic.
1656: England joins France in war against Spain.
1661: The first Bible printed in North America is John Elliot's translation into Algonquian.
1664: The Trappists order of monks is founded at La Trappe in France.
1666: The Great Fire destroys large sections of London.
1666: Puritans form Connecticut settlement in New Jersey.
1669: Mt. Etna erupts in Italy and kills 20,000.
1672: French and British declare war on the Dutch.
1673: The Test Act excludes Catholics from public office in England.
1681: English Quaker William Penn is granted the Providence of Pennsylvania.
1685: Louis XIV revokes the Edict of Nantes and exiles thousands of French Huguenots.
1687: Lima, Peru, is destroyed by an earthquake.
1688: English Protestants demand a Glorious Revolution against Catholicism.
1692: Witchcraft trials held in Salem, Massachusetts.
1698: Calcutta is founded by the British East India company.
1702: England declares war on France and Spain.
1704: Indians and French massacre British settlers in Deerfield, Massachusetts.
1707: Mt. Fuji erupts in Japan and kills 200,000.
1711: The French found the first permanent settlement in Mobile, Alabama.
1718: Voltaire is imprisoned in the Bastille.
1722: Afghans invade Persia.
1724: The Quakers make a statement opposing slavery.
1733: James Oglethorpe founds Georgia colony.
1741: George Handel composes *Messiah*.
1755: Lisbon earthquake kills 50,000.
1760: Russians invade Prussia and burn Berlin.
1762: Mozart performs at the Imperial Court in Vienna at age 6.
1769: Daniel Boone explores Cumberland Gap.
1770: The Boston Massacre happens.
1773: American colonists throw British tea into Boston Harbor.
1773: Pope Clement XIV persecutes the Jesuits.
1774: The Quebec Act grants religious liberty to Roman Catholics in Canada.
1775: The American Revolution begins.
1776: Shaker community is founded at Warrertvliet in New York.
1776: The Continental Congress adopts the Declaration of Independence.
1777: Christianity is introduced into Korea.
1780: The Gordon Riots begin in London against Catholic emancipation.
1784: Thomas Jefferson proposes a ban on slavery in the Western territories.
1789: The French Revolution begins.
1789: George Washington is elected as first U.S. President.
1792: France declares war on Austria and Prussia.
1792: Francis II succeeds Leopold II to become the last Holy Roman Emperor.

OTHER WORLD EVENTS HAPPENING AT THAT TIME IN HISTORY

- 1795: Napoleon Bonaparte defeats the insurrectionists in Paris.
- 1795: The Methodists separate from the Church of England.
- 1796: Napoleon defeats Austrian and Sardinian armies in Italy.
- 1798: Napoleon's armies invade Egypt.
- 1804: Napoleon crowns himself emperor of France.
- 1807: The slave trade is outlawed throughout the British empire.
- 1809: Lamarck publishes his theories of evolution.
- 1809: Napoleon takes Pope Pius VII prisoner.
- 1812: War between U.S and Britain begins.
- 1815: Napoleon is defeated at the Battle of Waterloo.
- 1820: The first American missionaries are admitted to Hawaii.
- 1821: Napoleon dies.
- 1829: Lord Bentinck bans *suttee* (widow-burning).
- 1830: Joseph Smith founds Mormon church at Fayette, New York.
- 1830: The Indian Removal Act is passed.
- 1833: The American Anti-Slavery Society is inaugurated in Philadelphia.
- 1843: Black American Sojourner Truth begins her reform mission.
- 1844: Y.M.C.A. is founded in England.
- 1847: American missionary Marcus Whitman is killed by Cayuse Indians in Oregon.
- 1847: The Mormons under Brigham Young found Salt Lake City.
- 1850: Congress reinforces the Fugitive Slave Law for the return of escaped slaves.
- 1854: Pope Pius IX proclaims the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary.
- 1855: David Livingstone discovers the Victoria Falls in Africa.
- 1857: Disputes between Mormon and non-Mormon settlers leads to Utah War.
- 1860: Abraham Lincoln elected as president of United States.
- 1861: Confederate States of America declare their independence from the United States.
- 1863: Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation abolishes slavery from the Confederate states.
- 1864: The Geneva Convention sets war standards.
- 1865: U.S. Civil War ends.
- 1865: Lincoln is assassinated.
- 1866: The Ku Klux Klan is founded.
- 1869: Pope Pius IX calls the first Vatican Council to discuss papal infallibility.
- 1871: Charles Taze Russell founds Jehovah's Witnesses.
- 1875: Mary Baker Eddy, founder of Christian Science, publishes *Science and Health*.
- 1876: Sioux Indians defeat General Custer at Battle of Little Bighorn.
- 1883: The Fabian Society is founded in London to spread socialist ideas.
- 1898: Britain obtains a 99-year lease for Hong Kong from the Chinese.
- 1898: The Spanish-American War begins.
- 1901: President McKinley is assassinated.
- 1901: Queen Victoria dies.
- 1901: The American Socialist Party is founded.
- 1903: Vladimir Ilich Lenin organizes Bolshevik revolutionary group.
- 1909: American explorer Robert Peary reaches the North Pole.
- 1910: The Union of South Africa is formed.
- 1911: Roald Amundsen reaches the South Pole.
- 1911: Sir Ernest Rutherford formulates his theory of atomic structure.
- 1912: The Titanic sinks.
- 1913: Medical missionary Albert Schweitzer builds hospital in Africa.
- 1913: Joseph Stalin is exiled to Siberia.
- 1914: France, Russia, and Britain are at war with Germany.
- 1914: Panama Canal is completed.
- 1917: Carl Jung publishes *The Psychology of the Unconscious*.
- 1917: The Balfour Declaration endorses a Jewish national homeland in Palestine.
- 1917: The Russian Revolution begins.
- 1917: U.S declares war on Germany.
- 1917: Bolsheviks seize power in Russia.
- 1918: Nicholas II and his family are executed.
- 1918: Revolution breaks out in Germany.
- 1918: World War I ends.
- 1919: Benito Mussolini organizes his Fascist movement.
- 1919: League of Nations is formed.
- 1920: Hitler forms the Nazi party.
- 1920: Alcohol in the United States is prohibited by the 18th Amendment.
- 1920: Women attain the right to vote.
- 1922: Egypt achieves independence.
- 1922: Mahatma Gandhi is imprisoned.
- 1923: Jewish philosopher Martin Buber publishes *I and Thou*.
- 1923: Tokyo and Yokohama are destroyed by earthquake; 100,000 killed.
- 1923: Turkey is declared a republic.
- 1924: Lenin dies and Joseph Stalin succeeds him.
- 1925: John T. Scopes is tried in Tennessee for teaching evolution.
- 1926: Hirohito becomes emperor of Japan.

OTHER WORLD EVENTS HAPPENING AT THAT TIME IN HISTORY

- 1928: Amelia Earhart flies across Atlantic.
- 1929: Jews and Arabs clash at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem.
- 1929: Wall Street crashes and leads to a worldwide depression.
- 1930: The city of Constantinople is renamed Istanbul.
- 1931: Spain is declared a republic.
- 1933: Hitler is named Chancellor of Germany.
- 1933: Prohibition in the United States ends.
- 1934: Elijah Muhammad becomes leader of the Nation of Islam (Black Muslims).
- 1935: The Nuremberg Racial Laws deprive German Jews of their citizenship.
- 1936: Spanish Civil War begins.
- 1939: Germany invades Poland and World War II begins.
- 1940: Winston Churchill becomes British prime minister.
- 1941: Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor; America enters World War II.
- 1943: Mussolini is deposed.
- 1944: Allied D-Day invasion forces land at Normandy.
- 1945: World War II ends.
- 1945: Mussolini is killed.
- 1946: Juan Peron is elected president of Argentina.
- 1947: Dead Sea Scrolls are found.
- 1948: Gandhi is assassinated.
- 1948: Palestinian Jews proclaim independent state of Israel.
- 1950: North Korea invades South Korea.
- 1951: King Abdullah of Jordan is assassinated.
- 1952: Elizabeth I ascends to British throne.
- 1952: First hydrogen bomb tested by U.S.
- 1953: The Korea War ends.
- 1953: Hussein I succeeds his father as King of Jordan.
- 1953: Laos is granted independence.
- 1953: Stalin dies.
- 1954: A Supreme Court decision prohibits racial segregation in United States public schools.
- 1955: Austria achieves independence.
- 1955: Martin Luther King, Jr., leads boycott against racial segregation on buses.
- 1955: Theologian Pierre Teilhard de Chardin publishes *The Phenomenon of Man*.
- 1956: Sudan gains independence.
- 1956: Tunisia and Morocco granted independence.
- 1957: Ghana gains independence.
- 1958: Civil war breaks out in Lebanon.
- 1958: Nikita Khrushchev comes to power as Soviet premier.
- 1959: Cyprus gains independence.
- 1959: Fidel Castro comes to power in Cuba.
- 1960: Zaire receives independence.
- 1960: Nigeria receives independence.
- 1960: Pat Robertson founds the Christian Broadcasting Network.
- 1961: The Bay of Pigs invasion.
- 1961: Tanzania receives independence.
- 1961: Kennedy establishes Peace Corps.
- 1961: Berlin Wall is constructed.
- 1962: Algeria gains independence.
- 1962: Trinidad, Uganda, and Tobago gain independence.
- 1962: Cuban Missile Crisis begins.
- 1962: U. S. Supreme Court rules that school prayers are a violation of the First Amendment.
- 1963: President Kennedy is assassinated.
- 1963: Kenya gains independence.
- 1963: President Ngo Dinh Diem of South Vietnam is assassinated.
- 1964: Nelson Mandela is sentenced to life imprisonment in South Africa.
- 1964: Malawi gains independence.
- 1964: Zambia gains independence.
- 1964: Zanzibar gains independence.
- 1964: Khrushchev is forced from office.
- 1964: The Palestine Liberation Organization is formed.
- 1964: U. S. Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination in employment.
- 1965: More than 180,000 U.S. troops are deployed in Vietnam.
- 1965: Race riots begin in Los Angeles.
- 1965: Zimbabwe declares independence.
- 1966: Mao Tse-tung begins China's Cultural Revolution.
- 1967: Civil war breaks out in Nigeria.
- 1968: Martin Luther King, Jr., is assassinated.
- 1968: Robert F. Kennedy is assassinated.
- 1969: Catholics and Protestants clash in Northern Ireland.
- 1969: Golda Meir becomes prime minister of Israel.
- 1969: President Nixon begins to withdraw U.S. forces from Vietnam.
- 1969: The modern gay rights movement begins.
- 1969: Arafat becomes chairman of the P.L.O.
- 1970: Civil war begins in Jordan.
- 1970: Anwar al-Sadat becomes Egyptian president.

ADDITIONAL VIDEO CURRICULA



The complete curriculum package includes

- Six half-hour video programs
- Comprehensive **leader's guide**
- Reproducible student worksheets
- Program scripts

Jesus: The New Way

Noted British scholar, Dr. Tom Wright, uncovers fascinating backgrounds from the first-century world of Jesus and shows how he was indeed a “new way” then and continues to be for us today.

Wright’s acclaimed scholarship is delivered in a winsome and understandable way, showing how Jesus is the fulfillment of Israel’s ancient hopes and humanity’s deepest dreams. You will see Jesus as you have never seen him before in the context of his Jewish and Roman world. You will find explosive new meaning in his familiar words and deeds as Wright unfolds his incomparable life and shows how it remains an unavoidable summons to our world and to our way of thinking.

The six programs are

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Getting the Kingdom Started | 4. Why Did Jesus Die? |
| 2. Startling Surprises | 5. Who Was Jesus? |
| 3. Longing for a King | 6. The New Claim |

Complete curriculum package, #4264

From Christ to Constantine: The Trial and Testimony of the Early Church

The first three centuries were decisive for Christianity. The very existence of the church itself was threatened by powerful opponents who wanted to destroy it. These programs go to the locations and use dramatic recreations to bring you close to the early believers.

A great attendance builder, this series has proven to be especially popular for small groups, Bible studies, and Sunday school. The flexible support material is designed so that lay people can effectively and comfortably lead a group through this fascinating period of church beginnings in 6 or 12 sessions.

The six programs are

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Foundations | 4. Persecutions |
| 2. Spread | 5. Testimony |
| 3. Accusations | 6. Transition |

Complete curriculum package, #4043



The complete curriculum package includes

- Six half-hour video programs
- Full-color companion book
- Comprehensive **leader's guide**
- Reproducible student worksheets
- Program scripts

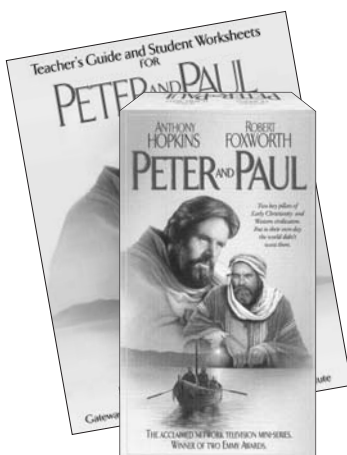
Peter and Paul

This distinguished production, starring Anthony Hopkins and Robert Foxworth, captures the vitality, intensity, and humanity of two who were entrusted by Christ with history’s greatest stewardship—the carrying of the Gospel to all the world. They faced violent opposition from without and constant turmoil from within. Based on the Scriptures by and about Peter and Paul, this video shows how they were driven by a heavenly vision for a different kind of world. They paid a horrendous price for their devotion — Peter crucified and Paul beheaded — but their ministries transcended the cruelty of their enemies to become important pillars of both the Christian Church and Western civilization. Winner of two Emmy Awards.

194 minutes on two tapes, #4184

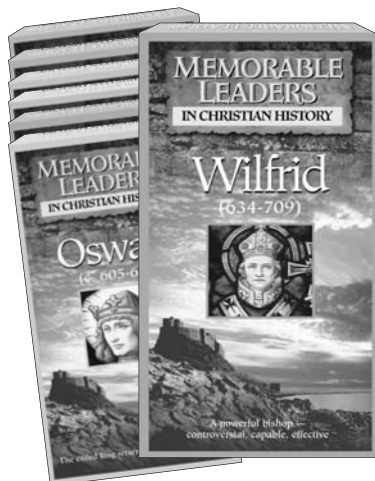
112-page Teacher’s Guide with Student Worksheets

Includes complete background and preparation material for leaders to conduct 13 sessions on *Peter and Paul* based on the Biblical sources. Guide includes reproducible student worksheets for each session. #4185



To request a catalog or place an order, contact Vision Video at 1-800-523-0226 8-6 M-F.

ADDITIONAL VIDEO CURRICULA



Memorable Leaders in Christian History

This series offers you our growing collection of Christian figures from earlier centuries whose lives and words left a mark never to be forgotten that minister to us today across the centuries. Each program is about 25 minutes and includes a discussion guide.

- Aidan (d. 651), #4331
- Bede (673-735), #4332
- Cuthbert (d. 687), #4333
- Hild (614-680), #4334
- The Lindisfarne Gospels (written c. 696-698), #4335
- Oswald (c. 605-642), #4336
- Wilfrid (634-709), #4337

Set of all seven, #4338

Reformation Overview

The Reformation dramatically changed the course of Christian history and Western civilization. Many of the issues faced then still confront us today.

Bring the Reformation alive and introduce your class or group to key reformers and major turning points with this fast-paced video curriculum series. The programs are based on Gateway Film's acclaimed dramatic film series now edited into dynamic half hours with introductions and transitions added from the very places where the momentous events took place.

The series covers

- John Wycliffe
- Martin Luther
- John Calvin
- William Tyndale
- John Hus
- Ulrich Zwingli
- The Anabaptists

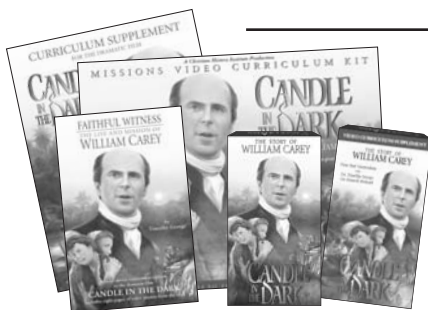
The accompanying curriculum is flexible so that you can adapt to a 6-, 12-, or 13-session format. The films on which this series is based have won over 30 prestigious international film awards. The full curriculum package includes everything you need for planning a series that will inspire interest, build attendance, stir hearts, and challenge minds. These programs drive viewers to examine what they really believe and why.

Complete curriculum package, #4110



Complete Curriculum Package Includes

- Six half-hour video programs
- Curriculum for 6, 12, or 13 sessions
- Teacher's/Leader's manual
- Reproducible student workbooks
- Bulletin inserts for each program



Candle in the Dark

William Carey's Serampore mission began two hundred years ago. So powerful was this example and influence around the world that Carey is hailed as the "Father of Modern Protestant Missions." The Serampore mission community's task seemed impossible, yet they overcame many obstacles to make a lasting impact for God and brought the transforming power of the Gospel to multitudes of hungry hearts.

Their experience provides valuable insight for all concerned today to see the message of Christ reach the world. This kit provides all you need for a 4- to 13-week series of studies that will be both heart-touching and mind-stretching. Whether you use it in a mission group, Sunday school, Bible class, or for individual study, you will be challenged to see how God mightily worked through his servants in the past, and encouraged to see how He still works in the world today.

Complete curriculum package, #4289

97-minute video only, #4306

A Faithful Witness book only, #4310

Complete Video Curriculum Kit Includes

- 97-minute dramatic film
- Film in four parts with commentary by Drs. Timothy George and Ramesh Richard
- Leader's guide
- A Faithful Witness, 265-page Carey biography by Dr. Timothy George
- Promotional materials

To request a catalog or place an order, contact Vision Video at 1-800-523-0226 8-6 M-F.