

PARENT GUIDE

Week 26—Church History

What We Covered

Your child explored the incredible story of **God's Church**—from the early believers in Acts, through times of persecution, and into the Reformation with Martin Luther. They learned that despite challenges throughout history, God has always protected and grown His Church through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We focused on the **Third Article of the Apostles' Creed**, which reminds us that **we don't come to faith or stay in faith by our own strength, but by the Holy Spirit**, who works through the Word, the Sacraments, and the Church.

Why We Talked About It

Understanding church history helps students recognize God's faithfulness across time. It reminds them that the Church didn't start with us and won't end with us—and that they are part of a global and historical movement of believers.

Catechism Connection

Third Article of the Apostles' Creed:

"I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him;
but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel..."

Ask your child what they remember about this part of the Catechism and how it connects to what Martin Luther rediscovered during the Reformation.

What You Can Do

Talk About:

- **Acts 2:** The early believers were unified in faith, shared everything, and worshipped together daily.
- **The Church has faced struggles**, but Jesus promised that not even the gates of hell will overcome it (Matthew 16:18).
- **The Reformation** showed how God used Martin Luther to bring the Church back to the truth: we are saved by grace through faith.
- The **Holy Spirit** is still working today, calling, gathering, and keeping us in the faith.

Family Time Prompt: Church Timeline Night

What You'll Need: Paper strips or index cards | Markers or pens | Bible

Instructions:

1. Create a Simple Church History Timeline Together

Write the following events on paper strips and lay them out in order:

- Jesus dies and rises again
- Pentecost – The Church begins (Acts 2)
- Christians are persecuted
- The Bible is translated into different languages
- Martin Luther and the Reformation (1517)
- Your family starts attending church
- (Leave a blank card for your child to write their own faith moment!)

2. Talk Together About God's Faithfulness

- Ask: "What do you notice about how God has stayed faithful through time?"
- Ask: "How is our family part of this big story?"

3. Read Acts 2:44–47 Together

Discuss how the early believers lived and how your family can reflect that today (e.g., praying together, helping others, sharing).

4. Pray Together

Thank God for keeping His Church strong and for calling your family to be part of it.