

Growing IN JESUS

500 YEARS OF FAITH FOR FAMILIES

CAROL GEISLER



Baptized

More than 500 years ago, kings and emperors and princes ruled. They lived in castles. Knights rode horses and carried swords and shields. People lived in towns and on farms. They worked hard to take care of their families. They went to church and thought about God and the devil. People worried about their sins. They wanted to please God so they could go to heaven.

Into that world of long ago, on November 10 in 1483, a little boy was born to Hans and Margaret Luther. The Luther family lived in Eisleben, Germany, where Hans worked in copper mines in the mountains. On the day after his birth, Hans and Margaret took their new baby boy to church to be baptized. November 11 was a special church holy day to remember Saint Martin, so the baby boy was named Martin. Little Martin Luther was baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Heavenly Father, help me to grow strong in faith in Jesus. Amen.

Talk about your name and its meaning. Why did your parents choose your name for you?

Children of the King

Baptism is a special gift of God. Water is poured on the head of the baby or adult who is baptized, or sometimes the person is dipped under the water. The pastor says, "I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of Holy Spirit." Those are the words Jesus told us to say. When you were baptized, God put his name on you and washed away your sins. He made you his child. In the Bible God says, "I have redeemed you. I have called you by name, you are mine" (Isaiah 43:1).

Martin Luther lived in a country ruled by an emperor and princes. When you were baptized, God brought you into the kingdom ruled by Jesus, his Son. Jesus is your King. He will watch over you and care for you every day and forever!

Jesus, I am happy that you are my King! Amen.

Light a candle each year on the date of your Baptism. Say a prayer thanking God for making you his child. If you have not yet been baptized, talk to your pastor about Baptism.



Family Time

Because Martin lived so long ago, no one is sure how many children were in the Luther family, but Martin may have had four brothers and four sisters. When Martin was still a baby, his family moved to a different town. Hans Luther still worked in the mines, but after a few years he owned some copper mines and earned more money to take care of his family.

Martin's parents were very strict, but they loved their children very much. They taught the children to be honest and work hard. The family sang and laughed together. Little Martin liked to play with his brothers and sisters, especially his brother Jacob. Hans and Margaret took their children to church and prayed with them at home. Martin learned about God. He learned that Jesus died on the cross for him. But Martin was also worried about his sins. Would he go to heaven when he died? Did God really forgive all of his sins?

Dear God, thank you for my family. Amen.

How many people are in your family? What does your family do to have fun together?

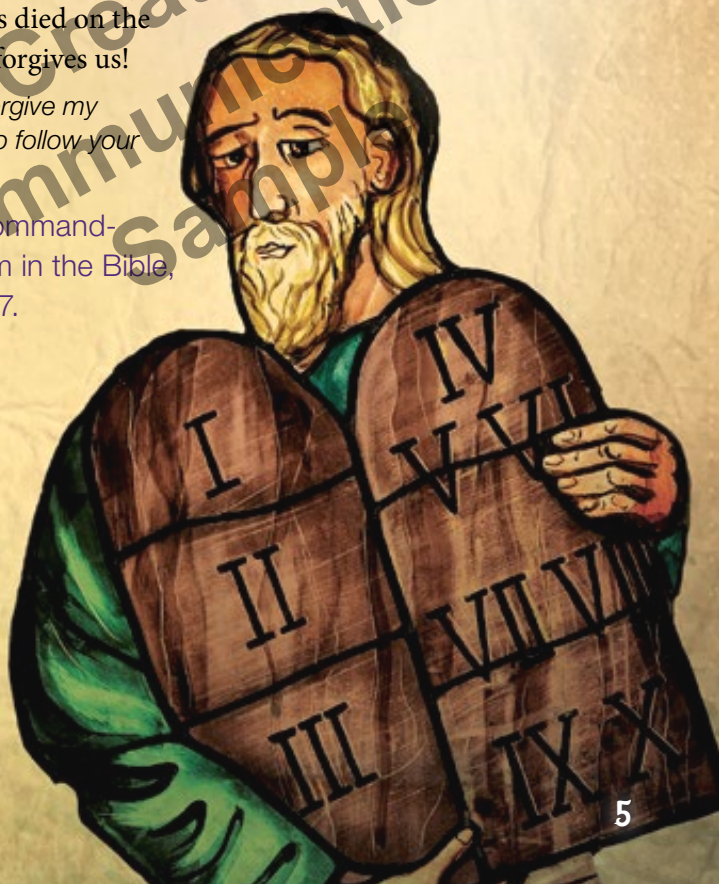
The Ten Commandments

God gives us our families, friends and neighbors. He gave us the Ten Commandments so we know how to worship him and how to live in a loving way with other people. The first few commandments are about life with God. We must worship only him. We should use his name in prayer and praise, not in cursing or swearing. We have a special day each week to worship God and listen to his Word. The other commandments tell us how to live in a kind and loving way. We are to honor our parents. We must not hurt others. Husbands and wives must be faithful to each other. We must not steal or speak about others in unkind ways. We should be happy with things we have instead of wanting what other people have.

We do not always obey God's commandments. We sin against God. But God sent Jesus to save us. We tell God we are sorry for our sins. Because Jesus died on the cross for us, God forgives us!

Heavenly Father, forgive my sins and help me to follow your commands. Amen.

Read the Ten Commandments. Find them in the Bible, in Exodus 20:1-17.



School Days

Martin started school when he was 4 years old. An older boy named Nicholas sometimes carried him to school so Martin's feet would not get wet and dirty on the muddy road. Martin lived in Germany and spoke German, but in school he learned Latin, the language used in church and in schools. He learned his numbers and studied history.

Martin was a good student. When he was a teenager, his family sent him to a school in a different town. He lived in a house with other boys and learned to give speeches and write stories and poems in Latin. When Martin finished his early years of school, he went to a university in a town called Erfurt. Hans Luther wanted his son to study law, so that is what Martin did. Martin was a talented young man. He had many friends and he worked hard at the university. What job would he have when he grew up?

*Heavenly Father, thank you for our teachers.
Help us to be good students. Amen.*

What job do you want to have when you grow up?

Living for God

Your parents work at home and they may work away from home too. They take care of your family and earn money to buy the things you need. You may help at home. You go to school, and when you grow up, you will have a job to earn the money you need. Your parents, your friends and teachers and your own interests will help you find the right job. You can serve God and help others in whatever job you choose.

You live and work for God now, as a son or daughter and maybe as a brother or sister or student. Your parents live and work for God too, at their jobs and as father and mother and husband and wife. You are a friend and a neighbor. In your future work and right now, you can work for God. You can help your family and others. You can share Jesus' love in your words and actions.

Dear God, I want to work for you right now, every day. Amen.

In what ways do you work for God right now? Are you a brother, a sister, a son or a daughter or student?

Creative
Communications
Sample



**Martin Luther was a baptized child of God, and so are you!
Martin loved to read the Bible and so do you. He shared
the love of Jesus with others, and you do that too!**

The daily family devotions in *Growing in Jesus: 500 Years of Faith for Families* tell the exciting story of the German reformer Martin Luther and the important lessons he learned from God's Word. Each story from Luther's life and adventures is paired with a lesson to help your family grow in Jesus, lessons about Baptism, the Bible, prayer, the Ten Commandments and other important teachings of the Christian faith. Together as a family, grow strong in faith. Grow in Jesus!

This book, along with many other
Creative Communications for the Parish products,
is available on [amazon](#)kindle and [nook](#)

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