

THE REFUGE

A Story of Martin Luther

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Bible Visuals is a not-for-profit ministry that exists to produce and provide visualized curriculum to ministry partners worldwide for the purpose of *Helping Children See Jesus!*

Bible Visuals would like to dedicate this story to the memory of Miss Rita Lobdell (1943-2015), State Director for Child Evangelism Fellowship of Eastern Pennsylvania. She was a teacher of children, a teacher of teachers and a faithful student of the Master.

ONLINE HELPS: Free key word sheets are available for this story. Visit shop.biblevisuals.org and search for #K5760.

PRONOUNCIATION GUIDE:

Johannes Yo-han-es Wittenberg Vit-ten-berg
Wartburg Vart-berg Worms Verms

This story may be told in two, five or six sessions.

The circle (●) indicates where to divide the narrative when teaching two sessions.

The triangle (▴) indicates the breaks for five sessions.

The star (★) divides the narrative into six sessions.



Show Illustration #1

“I must find a place to hide!”
Lightning lit up the sky as Martin Luther tried to hurry his horse to go faster through the slippery mud. The rain beat down on them, and thunder seemed to shake the air. Martin leaned toward his horse’s

neck and held on, trying to make himself as small as he could. And then, CRACK! A tree only a few feet away from him lit up with flames as lightning struck it. Martin’s horse jumped in fear and Martin tumbled to the ground. There was nowhere to hide and nothing else he could do, so Martin cried out to God, “If you will save me from this storm, I will become a monk!”



Have you ever been afraid of a storm? Martin certainly was afraid of this storm, but he was even more fearful of the God who controls the weather. Martin knew that God is holy and perfect. He has no sin and He cannot have sin in His presence. God is also just. That means He promises to punish sin, and will keep His word as He always does. Martin knew he was a sinner and that he deserved this punishment that God promised. Do you know that’s true for you

and me too? You and I have broken God’s law by our words, actions and thoughts, and we deserve punishment. In the book of Isaiah, God says, And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity.” (See Isaiah 13:11.) Martin hoped there was some way to escape this punishment and find a place of safety. He thought maybe he could find it by becoming a monk.

Martin survived the storm and kept his promise to God. Nine days later he showed up in the town of Erfurt at the door of the monastery. (Show map.) This was supposed to be a place set apart from the rest of the world where Martin and the other monks could devote themselves completely to God, to prayer and to doing what was right. As Martin looked around at the peaceful gardens and the bell tower overhead, he thought, *Surely this is the place where I will find rest for my body and peace in my heart.*



★Show Illustration #2

Martin tried his best to be a good monk. He prayed long prayers and sometimes went without eating and drinking so he could think about God. He stayed

NOTE TO THE TEACHER Gospel Points



God’s unconditional love



Jesus’ sacrificial death on the cross



Application for the believer



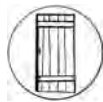
Jesus is the only Perfect Son of God



Jesus has risen again!



All have sinned.



Will you repent and accept Jesus as Saviour?

Throughout the text of this story, we have included Gospel Point icons. These are suggestions to help you explain that gospel point to your class. These points are optional with the understanding that you may plan on presenting the gospel during your Bible time instead.

However, if this story is the only lesson being presented, please take advantage of this feature. Sow the gospel seed!