

Reading Between The Lines of the European Reformation

A Four Session Study of Religious and Political Reform



500 Years of Reform: A fervor for reformation had been stirring with ebbs and flows for centuries that would see the crumbling of the structures of the Medieval Church. Within the 16th Century all regions of Christian Western Europe were seized with this upheaval which was as much political as theological.

On All Hallows Eve, October 31, 1517, an Augustinian monk by the name of Martin Luther nailed on the door of the castle chapel in Wittenberg a list of 95 theses, or complaints, against the use of indulgences by the Latin Church. This was one of several pivotal moments in the reforming movements within the Church in Europe.

Reading Between The Lines (RBTL) of the European Reformation is an opportunity to look at some of the original documents of key leaders of the movement and to examine the events that propelled this period of dramatic realignment. *RBTL of the European Reformation* invites participants to enter the story at the time each statement was made, and to consider the impact on ordinary people whose whole worldview was experiencing an earthquake-like shift.

In addition to examining the historical implications of the reformation, each session's questions allow participants to consider where this story is unfolding in the world today, and to identify what the implications may be. Finally, the materials invite the participants to look within themselves to see where the story lives in their own lives. Journeying through history we explore prose, poetry, art, and music:

- **The Lead Up: Cracks in the Old Church**
- **Reform: The Dawn of a New Era**
- **The Swiss Connection**
- **The Genevan Reformation**
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Available in print for \$20 (includes shipping) or Edelivery by email (PDF format) for \$15

Reading Between The Lines of the European Reformation is structured in the same format as our adult bible study resource: *Reading Between The Lines* and our youth resource: *TeenText*. All of our resources utilize The Educational Center methodology:



Our Method ~ Maieutic Teaching

A leader/teacher in the maieutic learning circle is there to serve, in a Socratic sense, as a “midwife” for others on their journey. The process is called maieutic from the Greek, referring to one who assists and supports the birth of the new child. The Maieutic leader/teacher facilitates and aids the students and is a guide through the story, in a disciplined manner, through the posing of questions.

The leader resists the standard, accustomed discussion of the *meaning* of the story and is responsible for gearing down the story in order to see it in slow motion. An essential aspect of this is for the circle to become aware of what the story says and *what it does not say*. The slow movement enables each person to “know” the story in an objective way. It discourages using the text as a discussion starter.

An important aspect of the maieutic process is the use of “right brain work”. At some point during the work with the text it is important to look at the text out of the corner of our eye.

We arrive at what Clarrisa Pincola Estes calls a “deeply creative” part of ourselves through writing, painting, drawing, using clay, mime or dance. We relate to the story in deep new ways through these creative acts. It takes skill to present these activities. There is most often anxiety in both the leader and the group in this movement into the creative and imaginal.

As we work with the maieutic process, the effect can be to keep the circle a little off balance. We need to lovingly help each other move more deeply into our own truth. Our relationship with one another and the trust that is built is crucial to our ability to move towards wholeness through story.

Want to learn more? Would you like training for group leaders or to have a group session hosted by one of our leaders? *Contact us:*

To order any of our resources: educationalcenter.org

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