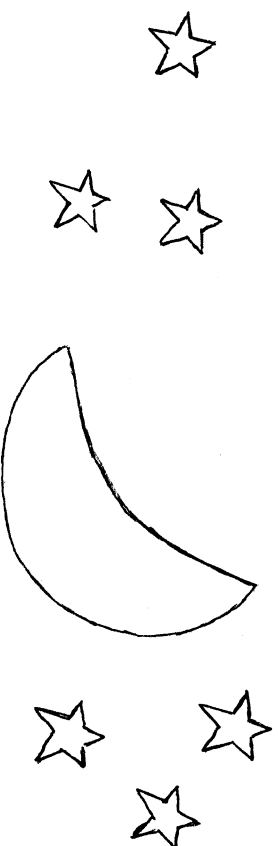


**BUT THERE'S ANOTHER KIND OF DARKNESS—
THE DARKNESS OF NOT KNOWING VERY
MUCH ABOUT GOD.**



**WHEN TRICK-OR-TREATERS GO OUT ON
HALLOWEEN, IT'S USUALLY WHEN THE SKY
HAS TURNED DARK, EXCEPT FOR THE
MOON AND THE STARS.**

Many, many years ago the words of the Bible, the book that tells us about God, were hidden from most of the people in Germany. They were written in Latin—a language that hardly anyone besides the leaders of the Catholic church knew.

But in 1483 a man named Martin Luther was born in Germany. From early in his life, Martin planned to be a lawyer. But one day, in a terrifying lightning storm, he promised to serve God as a monk in the Catholic Church if his life was spared.

Some of the Catholic Church leaders had made a sneaky plan to bring in lots of money. They told the people that they could pay money to have their sins forgiven. Martin had learned to read Latin, and he knew that the Bible didn't teach that we could have our sins forgiven by paying money.

Martin knew that the Bible teaches that the only way to have our sins forgiven and go to Heaven when we die is by faith. We must believe that God's Son Jesus died to pay for our sins and ask God to forgive our sins and help us live in the way that pleases Him.

Martin wanted the truth to be known. He made a list of 95 thoughts about things the Catholic Church was teaching and ways they didn't make sense when compared with what the Bible said. Some say he hung the list on the door of a church on **October 31, 1517**. He wanted the leaders to talk about all these things. Later Martin wrote the Bible in the German language so all the people could understand what it said. When Martin wrote up that list, it started what we call "**The Reformation**." Since that time, the light of God's Word has spread through many countries of the world.

DECODE THIS MESSAGE FROM THE BIBLE, USING THE LETTER THAT COMES BEFORE THAT LETTER IN THE ALPHABET:

This is the _____ we have heard from him
and _____ to you, that God is _____,
and in him is no _____ at all . . . But if we
_____ in the _____, as he is in the _____,
we have _____ with one another, and
the _____ of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanses
us from all sin. --I John 1:5&7 [World English Bible]

If you have never asked God to forgive your sins, why not do it today? Then talk to God and read from the Bible every day. If you can, join a church where other people love God and believe the Bible.