

Names _____

The Reformation

The Reformation was a 16th-century movement in western Europe that aimed at reforming some doctrines and practices of the Roman Catholic Church and resulted in the establishment of the Protestant churches. There were many Christians in western Europe who believed that malpractices carried out by the church were not in keeping with what they believed.

Let's look at some of the causes of the Reformation and make a comparison with our school.

1. Indulgences – When a person commits a sin, he or she can expect eternal punishment. The church was “selling” indulgences; in other words, they were allowing people to buy forgiveness of their sins.

TODAY: You got into a fight in the hall. The school rule is that you are suspended when you fight at school. Your mom calls in and is willing to make a big contribution to the levy committee if you can get out of your suspension. The principal agrees. The person you fought with cannot afford to make a contribution so he must spend five days at home as punishment for the fight. How are these two episodes similar? React to this scenario below.

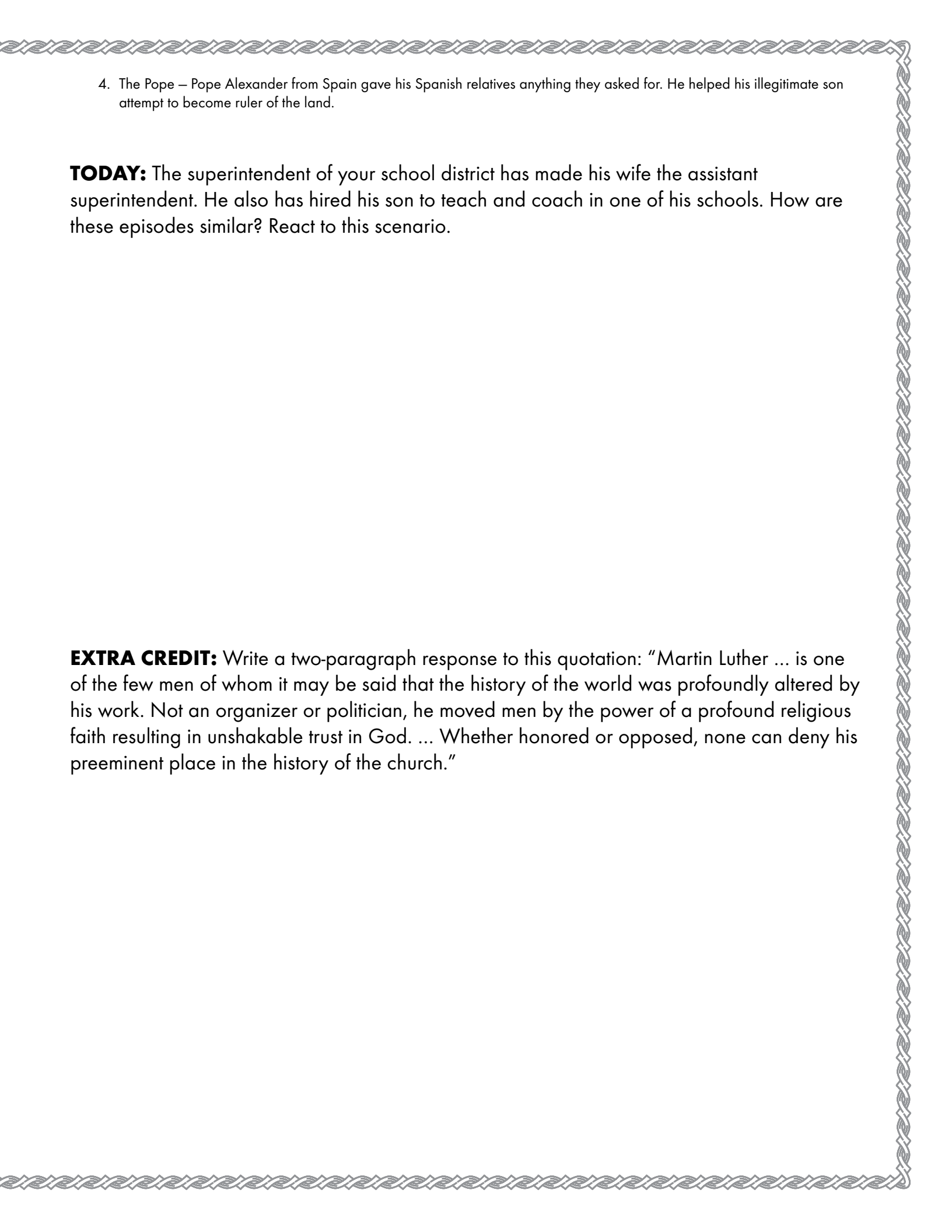
2. Lifestyle – St. Francis of Assisi believed that all church people should live a life of poverty to imitate the life of Christ. He narrowly avoided being called a “heretic” or a member of the church who holds different beliefs than those in power. This caused great internal conflict.

TODAY: The principal believes that every teacher needs to give homework every night. He is the boss and the ultimate authority in the school. A teacher believes that homework is not appropriate every night and therefore does not follow the rule and encourages others to break the rule as well. She narrowly misses being fired by the board of education on a 3-2 vote. How are these two episodes similar? React to this scenario.

How are these two episodes similar? How are they different?

3. Decline in prestige (influence) – There was a decline in power and influence of some of the ruling-class people in authority. The church depended upon these people to collect taxes for them and to enforce the church orders. This was not happening.

TODAY: The treasurer of the school district has made a large error in bookkeeping. This has been well publicized in the community and people are upset by the error. The board wants to put a new levy on the ballot to keep the district out of debt. There is not much support for the levy within the community. How are these episodes similar? React to this scenario.

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4. The Pope – Pope Alexander from Spain gave his Spanish relatives anything they asked for. He helped his illegitimate son attempt to become ruler of the land.

TODAY: The superintendent of your school district has made his wife the assistant superintendent. He also has hired his son to teach and coach in one of his schools. How are these episodes similar? React to this scenario.

EXTRA CREDIT: Write a two-paragraph response to this quotation: "Martin Luther ... is one of the few men of whom it may be said that the history of the world was profoundly altered by his work. Not an organizer or politician, he moved men by the power of a profound religious faith resulting in unshakable trust in God. ... Whether honored or opposed, none can deny his preeminent place in the history of the church."