

## Open Court Meeting at the Palace

Luxemburg – May 2014

**Directions:** The Prince of Luxemburg, your ruler, was notified by Emperor Charles V that he is weary of fighting with many of the German Princes over Martin Luther's teachings. The proposed Peace of Augsburg will allow your Prince to determine the religion of your country. The Prince has decided to hold an open court meeting at the palace to discuss and determine what religion would be the best alternative for your state. Normally, the Prince would not turn to you for advice, but there has been a crisis of faith throughout Europe that has led to several rebellions and wars. In addition, many residents of the region have been outspoken in their differences of opinion over who is right – The Church or those trying to reform the Church, such as Martin Luther and Henry VIII of England.

### ***During the meetings today:***

- A. Come up with three arguments your character might make to convince others to advise the Prince to choose your religion
- B. Develop arguments against choosing other sects.
- C. What action your Prince should take?

### **ROLES**

1. Roman Catholic
2. Lutheran/German Protestant
3. Anglican/English Protestant
4. Calvinist
5. Anabaptist

### **STATEMENTS ABOUT RELIGION AND THE CHURCH:**

- A. The Bible is the source of all truth about religion.
- B. Church and State should be separate.
- C. Salvation, and those who will receive it (the "elect"), has been predetermined by God.
- D. Religious leaders should control government.
- E. People can win salvation only by faith in God's gift of forgiveness.
- F. All people with faith are equal.
- G. Commitment to one's faith is an adult choice.
- H. The monarch should be the head of the Church and decide how people in their state (kingdom) should worship.
- I. Faith and "Good Works" are needed for salvation.
- J. Indulgences are not supposed to affect God's right to judge.
- K. All Church teachings should be clearly based on the words of the Bible. The Pope and Church traditions are false authorities.
- L. The Church's interpretation of the Bible is final, anyone else's interpretation is heretic.
- M. The Bible and Church traditions are equally powerful.
- N. It is our mission, as Christians, to educate others on "God's" words.

**Reflection:** Write a letter to a relative that could not attend the meeting explaining what happened at the meeting, from the perspective of your character. What was the recommendation that the Prince decided upon? Did your character agree with this decision? Explain why or why not. Which do you think is a more justified reason for breaking with the Church – reforming corrupt and out-dated practices OR obtaining a divorce? Why?