Church and Society in Western Europe

Lesson 2

Church Reform and the Crusades

Key Terms and People

- **simony**: practice of selling positions in the church
- **Gothic**: style of architecture of the cathedrals during the Middle Ages
- **Urban II**: pope who called for the First Crusade
- **Crusade**: a holy war
- **Richard the Lion-Hearted**: English king who fought Saladin in the Third Crusade
- **Saladin**: famous Muslim leader of the 1100s

Before You Read

In the last lesson, you read about the authority and role of the Church during the Middle Ages.

In this lesson, you will read about changes in the Church and the launching of the Crusades.

As You Read

Use a chart to note reasons about important events in reforms in the Catholic Church and the Crusades.

THE AGE OF FAITH

*What changes did the Church undergo?*

Starting in the 1000s, a new Age of Faith arose in Europe. Popes tried to end certain practices. One practice was the marriage of priests. Another was **simony**, or the selling of positions in the Church. A third problem popes wanted to reform was the appointment of bishops by kings. The Church felt it alone could appoint bishops.

In the early 1200s, a new Church group arose. They were called friars. They moved from place to place spreading the ideas of the Church. Women also played a role during the Age of Faith. Many entered convents to devote themselves to God.

1. **What three practices showed the Church needed reforming?**

   ________________________________

CATHEDRALS—CITIES OF GOD

*How did the new cathedrals reflect the new Age of Faith?*

The Age of Faith was shown in the building of great cathedrals. In the early 1100s, these huge churches were built in a style of architecture called **Gothic**. The cathedrals were towering. Light streamed in through colorful stained-glass windows.
Lesson 2, continued

2. What was the new style of church architecture?

THE CRUSADES

Why were the Crusades fought?

In 1093, the Byzantine emperor asked for help against Muslim Turks. They were threatening to conquer Constantinople. Pope Urban II urged the leaders of Western Europe to begin a holy war—a Crusade. He wanted Christians to gain control of Jerusalem and the entire Holy Land. Both knights and common people joined the Crusades. Their motive was deep religious feeling.

The First Crusade began in 1097. The Crusaders captured some of the Holy Land, including Jerusalem. Muslims, however, won back some of this land. Then other Crusades followed. During the Second Crusade, the Muslims recaptured Jerusalem.

Three powerful European rulers led the Third Crusade. One was the English king Richard the Lion-Hearted. He fought the Muslim leader Saladin. The two reached a truce. But the Crusades were not over.

The Fourth Crusade ended in disaster. In 1204, knights looted Constantinople. This helped make a lasting split between western and eastern Christian churches.

3. Why did people support the Crusades?

THE CRUSADING SPIRIT DWINDLES

How did Christians react to the unsuccessful Crusades?

In 1204, The Fourth Crusade to capture Jerusalem failed. The knights never reached the Holy Land. Instead, they stopped in Constantinople and looted the city.

In the 1200s, more attempts were made to capture the Holy Land, but none were successful. Over time, people began to lose their deep religious feelings toward the Crusades. They started to care more about their own personal gain.

4. How did Christians change their beliefs after the Crusades?

THE EFFECTS OF THE CRUSADES

What changes did the Crusades bring?

The Crusades had many effects on Europe. At first the Crusades showed the power of the Church in the lives of the believers. The failure of later Crusades cut the pope’s power. The deaths of many knights reduced the nobles’ power.

Contact with the East revived trade. The Christians’ harsh treatment of Muslims in the Holy Land led to bitterness that has lasted to the present.

5. What are four effects of the Crusades?
As you read about reforms in the Catholic Church and the Crusades, note one or more reasons for each of the following developments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. The Benedictine monastery was founded at Cluny.</th>
<th>2. The power of the pope was extended.</th>
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<td>3. Nearly 500 Gothic cathedrals were built and decorated between 1170 and 1270.</td>
<td>4. The Byzantine emperor appealed to the Count of Flanders for help.</td>
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<td>5. Pope Urban II issued a call for a Crusade.</td>
<td>6. There was an outpouring of support for the First Crusade.</td>
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<td>7. Four feudal Crusader states were formed, each ruled by a European noble.</td>
<td>8. Jerusalem remained under Muslim control, though unarmed Christian pilgrims could visit the city’s holy places.</td>
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<td>9. The religious spirit of the First Crusade faded, and the search for personal gain grew.</td>
<td>10. European kings strengthened their own power as a result of the Crusades.</td>
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