



SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 4 October 16, 2022
“Methodism”

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for your love for us, your grace and your mercy. We thank you for John Wesley and his commitment to serving you and spreading the gospel. Lord, we know your heart grieves as the Methodist churches separate. Help us to move forward and be the Church you have called us to be. Give the leaders of the UMC wisdom to move forward and give us all the courage to do what needs to be done to further your kingdom.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV)

⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 4:1-6 (NIV)

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

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INTRODUCTION

Into 18th century England, a priest and Oxford professor named John Wesley came to trust in Christ and then began preaching a faith that would bring a revival of Christianity throughout the British Isles and across America. Wesley’s message and his faith continue to speak to 21st Century Christians – calling for a revival of our hearts and souls so that our lives and our world might be changed.

John Wesley once said “Though we can’t think alike, may we not love alike? May we be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may.” Wesley’s call for unity in the body requires patience, humility, and grace to look at people with whom you disagree on an issue or theological point and say, “You are still my brother or sister.”

QUESTIONS

1. What is one thing that you love about the United Methodist Church?
2. In what ways is it beneficial for Christians to meet together in small group community? Can these meetings spark increased holiness? In our meetings, how do we tend to encourage one another?
3. How do you feel about United Methodist Churches leaving the denomination to join the Global Methodist Church?
4. John Wesley once said “Though we can’t think alike, may we not love alike? May we be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may.” If more Christians through the ages had followed Ephesians 4:1-6, as well as Wesley’s counsel, do you believe the church would be stronger and more respected, or weaker? For what reasons?
5. In the sermon, Pastor Eric said “Methodism has often been described as a bridge-building or “conjunctive” faith—a faith that holds together, often in tension, what might seem to be opposing impulses.” How do you feel about a faith that is regarded as being in the center and not very conservative and not very progressive?

FINAL APPLICATION

In this difficult season for the United Methodist Church, what is one thing you can do to build bridges with someone you disagree with on an issue or theological point?