



OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for those who have come before us who helped to form and mold the ways we learn about and grow in our faith. Thank you for John Wesley and his ministry; and for providing him with the abilities to craft the covenant of renewal that we examined in worship this week. Help us to take the words of this covenant seriously and work to ingrain them in our lives today and throughout this new year. We pray this in the powerful and matchless name of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Exodus 34:10 (NIV)

¹⁰ Then the Lord said: "I am making a covenant with you. Before all your people I will do wonders never before done in any nation in all the world. The people you live among will see how awesome is the work that I, the Lord, will do for you."

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

December 31, 2023

Wesleyan Covenant Renewal Service

INTRODUCTION

As we look towards another new year, we reflect on what has been and what we hope will be. Amidst a changing world, we take time this week to consider what a steadfast connection with our Creator can be. Our questions this week revolve around the Wesley Covenant Renewal Service, which John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, developed. Each question is framed by one of the “admonitions” of the Wesley Covenant Renewal Service.

QUESTIONS

1. *“First, set apart some time, more than once, to be spent alone before the Lord”*
What are some personal practices or disciplines you’ve used to spend time with God? How have they helped you to grow closer to God? What are some of the challenges you’ve faced in using them?
2. *“Second, be serious and in a spirit of holy awe and reverence.”*
What was a moment in your life when you felt the presence of God and the enormity of God’s power? How does that moment -and others like it - help you to get into a mindset of “holy awe and reverence” as you spend time with God?
3. *“Third, claim God’s covenant, rely upon God’s promise of giving grace and strength, so you can keep your promise. Trust not your own strength and power.”*
Talk about a time when you’ve faced a situation that was out of your control. Were you able to trust God’s strength and power in that moment? If so, how did it help? If not, do you think it may have changed anything?
4. *“Fourth, resolve to be faithful.”*
What does it mean to be faithful? How has being faithful to God impacted your life?
5. *“And last, be then prepared to renew your covenant with the Lord.”*
What are some covenants you’ve made with God (perhaps through baptism, the rite of confirmation, or another milestone in your life)? What value do you find in taking time to renew your covenant with God?

FINAL APPLICATION

Say the Wesley Covenant Prayer together (as a call and response if needed):

*“I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom
thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.*

*I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.”*