

Come to the Table Discussion Questions

Session 1: Amazing Grace with Scott Hagan and Kirk Hagan

What are the three types of grace discussed in the video?

Discuss prevenient grace. Why is it like being on the porch of a house?

What about justifying grace - the grace that makes it "just-as-if" I had not sinned? Why is it like the door of a house?

What about sanctifying grace? Why is it like living inside the house?

Through God's grace, we are Christians under construction. How would you explain that thought to others?

What is the starting point of God's grace? Is it love for us even before we knew that God exists? How does that make you feel about God? How does that make you feel about those who are "lost" and don't know God?

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Session 2: Methodist History

with Dave Hanson

What was John Wesley trying to accomplish with all his work of starting a holy club and small groups? Was he trying to start a denomination?

When John Wesley started places of worship, what types of ministry/service did he include beyond worship? Why did he think it important to include meeting the needs of the community through social justice services such as schools, medical clinics, pharmacies, homes for the homeless, etc.? How do you see these early practices incorporated into The United Methodist Church today?

Why did John Wesley come to Georgia? Did he accomplish his purpose? Was his time here a success? (While he didn't consider his work here a success, many do because in his travels he met folks who helped him on his spiritual journey, which enabled him to create the movement that became Methodism.)

What did John Wesley think about small groups? Why were small groups important? Are you in a small group today? What small groups are offered by your congregation for members and for the community?

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Session 3: Works of Piety

with Ben Gosden and Teresa Edwards

When you think about piety, what comes to mind?

What are the three means of grace/works of piety/acts of devotion discussed by Teresa?

Acts of devotion are designed to move us closer to God and encourage us to live more like the one we love - Jesus. What are you doing every day to nurture your relationship with God?

Teresa said, "Having a Bible and using it are two different things." What do you think about that statement?

What were the aspects of corporate worship, which is a corporate act of piety, that Ben talked about? Why is it important to gather together for worship?

What about the order of the players in worship? Is God the director of worship or the recipient of our acts of praise during worship? Which way does it work for you?

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Session 4: Works of Mercy

with Shannon and Aimee Baxter

How do you see works of mercy as a way of living out the two great commandments: “Love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength; and love your neighbor as yourself”?

The video sites a hymn by Charles Wesley that states, “And ever toward each other move, and ever move toward Thee.” How do you see moving toward others as a way of moving toward God?

Works of mercy are both personal and social. Where have you personally experienced works of mercy as an individual or in a communal setting?

Wesley listed six people groups to minister works of mercy to: people experiencing hunger, those who are thirsty, the naked, those experiencing homelessness, the sick, the imprisoned and those who mourn. Which of these do you find the easiest to do? The hardest? Would you add anything to the list?

Where do you sense God calling you to live out these works of mercy in your life?

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Session 5: The Wesleyan Quadrilateral

with Isaac Salgado

What are the four parts of the Wesleyan Quadrilateral?

Why is John Wesley's theology called "practical theology"?

When you think about being surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, do you think about the witnesses through the last 2000 years? Do you think about the tradition of the church as a witness to the great cloud of witnesses?

Often when we discuss the Bible, we discuss what it means to us. That's the experience part of the quadrilateral. Why is it important to consider what the Bible means to us through experience, tradition, and reason, rather than just what the Bible says to an individual?

Use the Wesleyan quadrilateral to discuss an issue: choose an issue; consider what scripture has to say; consider what the church through time has said; pray for the Holy spirit to guide your discussion; and think through the issue. Discuss how it helps to use all four aspects of the quadrilateral to consider an issue?

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Session 6: Our Connection - Alive Together in the World

with Allison Lindsey

John Wesley said, “The World Is My Parish.” What does it mean to say that The United Methodist Church is a global church? How are our local churches connected, literally, throughout the world?

How does your church participate in the global church? How do *you* participate in the global church personally?

One way United Methodist Churches have significant impact across the world is through our apportionments. As a connected church by combining smaller gifts into a larger amounts, we can truly effect transformation around the world. We work together to accomplish what could never be done on our own. How did Bishop Mande Mayombo experience being a product of the connection through gifts put in the offering plate in the local church? How does being a part of this incredible impact we have make you feel?

Bishop Swanson spoke of the “POWER of We,” and Bishop Bryan lifts up the importance of “Being Alive Together In Christ.” How are these two dynamics lived out in the Body of Christ? What is their importance? How does the Holy Spirit work within these truths?

When we think back to the beginning of our Methodist heritage, John Wesley started with schools, prison ministries, pharmacies, and medical clinics in addition to worship. How does it make you feel to know that from such humble beginnings we have grown to offer Christ to the world and at the same time through our works of mercy offer education, medical services, care for orphans, and many other services all around the world?

Where is your church “Alive Together in the World” in your local community and beyond?