

John Wesley's Thoughts on Methodism

“I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid, lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power. And this undoubtedly will be the case, unless they hold fast both the doctrine, spirit, and discipline with which they first set out.”

– John Wesley, *Thoughts Upon Methodism* (1786)

John Wesley wrote this toward the very end of his life. He had seen the incredible growth of the Methodist movement, which was still technically a part of the Church of England. But, as you can see, he feared that someday we might lose sight of what's really most important.

So, what is this doctrine, spirit, and discipline that Wesley had in mind? In short, it's this. First, Christianity is not merely outward form, but inner transformation. It's not just attending church, but a life changed inside and out by the grace of God. In essence, it's a life of holiness. It's being renewed in the Image of God, being made holy as God is holy.

Second, only the Holy Spirit can change us like that. You and I can't manufacture it, and we can't fake it. Only God can do this in us. It's a miracle of God's grace. It's why we talk about being born again of the Spirit of God.

Third, we receive this grace by faith in Jesus Christ. It is only through Jesus' atoning sacrifice on the Cross that we can not only be forgiven of our sin, but changed by grace to be holy in heart, mind, and soul.

Finally, anyone who is living this life of holiness, or at least sincerely pursuing it, is a true Methodist. That is, they are Methodist not only in name, but in heart. And, according to Wesley, if we will continue to pursue God like that, we will avoid what he feared most, because the power of the Holy Spirit will be at work within us.

Brother Lauren



SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

- 9:00 a.m. Come AZ U R Service
- 9:50 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Service
- 5:00 p.m. Planet 456
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
- 6:00 p.m. Snack Supper
- 6:30 p.m. Youth

MONDAY, JANUARY 27

- 9-12 noon Methodist Market
- 6:00 p.m. Church Council
- 6:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study/Millie's

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

- 6:00 p.m. Emmaus Meeting

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

- 3-4:15 p.m. Hiskidz Choir
- 3-4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class
- 5:30 p.m. In the Hands of God/Prayer Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
- 6:15 p.m. Youth Small Group

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

- 9-12 noon Methodist Market

Don't forget Hiskidz Choir will begin Wednesday, January 29, from 3-4:15 pm. The church bus will pick up the children at Covenant and Manchester.



- 26. Linda Coker, Jordan Goodman
- 29. Kathy Phillips, Anna Ryan Ragland
- 1. Amy Ray, Sarah Phillips, Drake Smith

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- 27. Mr. & Mrs. Bill Dew

Begin Anew

Every morning lean thine arms
 awhile
 Upon the windowsill of heaven
 And gaze upon thy Lord.
 Then, with the vision in thy heart,
 Turn strong to meet thy day.

—Thomas Blake



Solid Ground Youth

This week we will conclude with our Fathom Series, *The Broken Kingdom*. The lesson is focused on the destruction of Jerusalem and the proclamation made by Jeremiah of God's restoration of the kingdom.

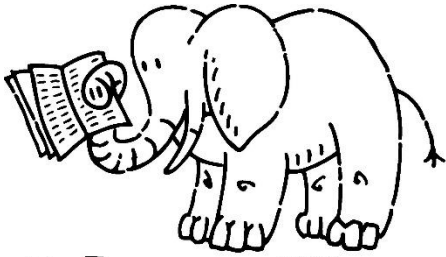
Sunday Night Youth

Last week we began a new Bible study called, *The Twelve Outlaws*. This study takes a closer look at Jesus' apostles. Why were these apostles "WANTED" by Christ? Last week we learned more about Andrew, and how he saw the good and value in small things. Andrew didn't care to be the center of attention. However, he made an impact on people by spending time one-on-one with them. Andrew reminds us that even the little things make a difference. This Sunday night we will be studying about James.

Wednesday Night Small Group

Wednesday night small group has picked back up. We will continue with the Study we began last week, *What Do You Allow to Define You?* This 6-week study will take us on a journey to understand who we are. This week we will cover the lesson, *Who Are You?* Do we see ourselves the way God sees us?

Children's Page



Memory Verse

“So, they went out and proclaimed that people should change their hearts and lives.”

Mark 6:12



During the month of January, we have been learning about the beginning of Jesus' ministry. This Sunday, we will be learning about when Jesus sent the Disciples out to share the Good News. He gave them instructions to follow and explained to them how to handle certain situations. We will dig deeper into this story this week in Sunday school.

In Planet 456 Bible study, we will begin with our first lesson of our new study, *Defined, Who God Says You Are*, this Sunday. This lesson is **Created by God**. God created all of us to be exactly who He wants us to be. We are not supposed to be like everyone else.



Confirmation

Confirmation classes for our 6th graders started up this past Wednesday, January 15. We will continue to meet every Wednesday through February 12th. We will meet at the church from 3:00 - 4:30p.m.

Volunteers serving Sunday, January 26, 2020

Greeters	Donna Heidel/Max & Rita Sanders
Acolytes	Caroline Swafford & Sherrill Ann Chaney
Scripture	Acts 2:42-47
Sermon	“How Is It With Your Soul?”
Sunday Night Supper Moms	Dixie Roberts & Angie Kyle
Flowers	Frances Pierce

Attendance, January 19, 2020

Worship Services	200
Sunday School	109

Daily Bible Readings

JANUARY

26. A prophet like Moses	Deuteronomy 18:15-20
27. The beginning of wisdom	Psalm 111
28. One God and one Lord	1 Corinthians 8:1-13
29. Like cold water to a thirsty soul	Proverbs 25:25
30. Whenever we call	Deuteronomy 4:7-9
31. Keep these words	Deuteronomy 6:4-9

FEBRUARY

1. Have you not heard?	Isaiah 40:21-31
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