

Awakened: John Wesley and the Methodist Movement

Grow Through the Bible @ ConcordUnited.org/Bible

Reading Plan: April 7-June 1, 2024

Our Awakened series looks at life experiences of John Wesley and core theological beliefs of Methodism. Just as Wesley desired to be "a man of one book," our scripture readings help us explore Wesley's goal of always directing others to the saving love and grace of Jesus Christ. That is our call as well. John Wesley's story is also our story.

Week of April 7	God Goes First				
	Methodism is rooted in the truth of God's love for each of us. Prevenient grace is that God loves us first, that God pursues us. God's loving us first is evidenced in the words of Ephesians 2:8, "it is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God". God's prevenient grace was at work within Wesley throughout his early life, just as it is with each of us.				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
○ Ephesians 2:1-10	○ Romans 1:1-17	○ Romans 1:18-2:16	○ Romans 2:17-3:8	○ Romans 3:9-31	○ Romans 4

Week of April 14	There's Got to be More Than This					
	Wesley experienced a crisis of faith as he realized he had head knowledge yet something was missing. Coming to the assurance of God's saving love for him was a transformative experience for Wesley. Wesley's Aldersgate experience ignited in him a living faith that transcended his head knowledge. The words of Romans 5 rest at the heart of Wesley's experience and ours too.					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
○ Romans 5:1-11	○ Romans 5:12-20	○ Romans 6	○ Romans 7	○ Romans 8:1-27	○ Romans 8:28-39	

Week of April 21	A New Way <i>Experiencing new birth is a core belief of Methodism. This belief is evident in the conversation between Nicodemus and Jesus, where Jesus explains that this is a birth of the Spirit, not of the flesh. Readings this week explore new life in Christ.</i>				
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
○ John 3:1-19	○ John 4:1-26	○ John 7:37-39	○ 1 Thess 4:1-12	○ 2 Thess 2:13-3:5	○ 1 John 3:1-10

Week of April 28	Life Together <i>Living life in community is core to scripture and Methodism. Our readings this week focus on how life together is foundational to living as followers of Jesus and growing in faith.</i>					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
○ Matthew 22:37-40	○ Hebrews 10:19-25	○ Acts 16:11-15	○ Acts 17:10-15	○ Acts 17:16-34	○ Acts 18:1-11	

Week of May 5	Ordinary Being Extraordinary <i>For John Wesley, praying, reading scripture, fasting, and Holy Communion weren't just about being a good Christian. Participating in the "means of grace" for Wesley was about purposefully engaging in activities which convey God's grace. These means are not about earning God's grace, but experiencing God's grace. As individuals and as a community of faith, nurturing our faith in this way is a part of who we are.</i>					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
○ Acts 2:42-47	○ Luke 22:14-20	○ Psalm 40	○ Psalm 56	○ Psalm 90	○ Psalm 121	

Week of May 12	The Spirit of Christian Unity					
	How we live our lives in daily circumstances and conversations matters. John Wesley said: "Though we can't think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion?" Methodists hold to the historic orthodox Christian faith, have social principles supporting a consistent ethic of the sanctity of life; cutting across partisan politics, and believe the Holy Spirit is at work in Christians with theological and political beliefs different from our own.					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
○ 2 Kings 10:1-17	○ John 13:34-35; 15:9-17	○ John 17	○ Galatians 3:26-4:7	○ Ephesians 4:1-16	○ Philippians 2:1-18	

Week of May 19	More Than a Place				
	Celebrate Pentecost--the birth of the Church and the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Church is a people, not a building. John Wesley preached in the fields and provided for community needs.				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
○ Matthew 25:31-40	○ Acts 2:1-13	○ Acts 2:14-41	○ Acts 3	○ Habakkuk 3:2	○ Isaiah 12

Week of May 26	<i>The Best of All Is, God Is with Us</i> <i>We conclude our series with Wesley's words as he lay on his deathbed, "The best of all is, God is with us". Death does not get the final word; our God is a God of life everlasting.</i>				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
○ 2 Timothy 4:6-8	○ Isaiah 25:6-9	○ Isaiah 45:22-46:4	○ 1 Corinthians 15:12-58	○ 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:18	○ Psalm 146



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