

A Methodist Way of Life for June 2025

Learn “We learn more about our faith”

Introduction

John Wesley, founder of Methodism, always had a restless desire to be a better disciple of Jesus Christ, to **learn**, to grow and mature in the faith, and his example is one we should follow today.

Learning is not just about facts. Faith is a physical, intellectual, spiritual and emotional journey. Wesley emphasised that the Holy Spirit helps us to realise our need of God, come to discover him and then **receive** the assurance of His acceptance, love and forgiveness.

Key themes

Jesus calls us to be disciples, which is like being an apprentice. We need to **learn**, grow, change, and be surprised by God. We will never know all the answers, but seeking answers can itself be an important step in our journey of faith.

- For some people this might be formal theological education, but we also learn through our day-to-day lives and encounters with other people. ‘Learning’ is not all about facts, we also **learn** through hearing stories and understanding the emotional journey of others, or through ‘doing’.
- Be open-minded! We often **learn** most from people who are different/have different views from us.

Two relevant bible passages

Jesus said

“Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who doesn't love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

“All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will **teach** you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

(Source: John's Gospel Chapter 14 verse 25 to 27).

Paul said

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

(Source: Philippians Chapter 4 verses 8 and 9).

Questions for us all

- Would it be helpful to meet in small groups to help us to learn, grow and reflect?
- How could our learning be more inclusive of different points of view, life experiences, and expectations?
- What has helped us learn and grow recently?
- What would we like to learn about faith?
- What's the best lesson we've ever learnt about God?
- Are there questions you struggle with? Where have you found peace in not knowing all the answers?
- What can we learn from John Wesley's life, particularly when it comes to practicing a 'way of life'?

Ideas for our prayers through which we may learn.

Pray for open minds and hearts: Think of an issue where we struggle with it, or someone who has a different point of view to yours. Ask God to give you peace in this tension. Ask God to help you build community with people who are different to you, from whom you can learn and who can learn from you.

Hymn StF 504 "May the mind of Christ my Saviour" (with verse 6 added)

1. May the mind of Christ my Saviour
live in me from day to day,
by his love and power controlling
all I do or say.

2. May the word of God dwell richly
in my heart from hour to hour,
so that all may see I triumph
only through his power.

3. May the peace of God my Father
rule my life in everything,
that I may be calm to comfort
sick and sorrowing.

4. May the love of Jesus fill me,
as the waters fill the sea;
him exalting, self-forgetting
this is victory.

5. May I run the race before me,
strong and brave to face the foe,
looking only unto Jesus
as I onward go.

6. May His beauty rest upon me
as I seek the lost to win,
and may they forget the channel,
seeing only him.

Source: "A Methodist Way Of Life" Abridged and amended for BMC
www.methodist.org.uk/faith/a-methodist-way-of-life/ then search for "Learn".

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