

# NEW MEMBERS CLASS 2: Discipleship

## LESSON DETAILS

**SUBJECT:** Discipleship in the UMC

**LESSON FOCUS:** UM distinctives in discipleship & Christian living

**OBJECTIVE:** To help participants understand discipleship as a lifelong journey of growing in love of God and neighbor, rooted in Wesleyan theology and United Methodist practice.

By the end of the session, participants will be able to:

- Define Christian discipleship in a Wesleyan/UMC context
- Identify key practices of Wesleyan discipleship
- Reflect on how they can live as disciples in their daily lives
- Commit to at least one next step in their discipleship journey

**MATERIALS:** Nametags/sharpies, printed scripture passage, General Rules handout, Covenant Prayer handout, dry erase markers, sticky notes/pens

## ICEBREAKER: THE ROADTRIP

- Pass out sticky notes and pens
- Ask for a destination the group would like to travel to and write on board
- Discuss the steps involved getting to said destination (check calendar, buy tickets, book hotel, etc.)
  - Have participants write the different steps on stickies and place on the board
- Ask about a packing list

## EXTENSION

- Repeat the exercise but with the journey of discipleship, offering suggestions and prompts as necessary
  - When does the *Christian discipleship* journey begin? When does it end?
  - What are some steps we take on the journey of faith?
  - What should we “pack” with us?
  - How will we know when we get to our destination? What will it/we look like?
- Take a moment for participants to reflect on where they are on the journey
  - People can share if they feel comfortable

## Teaching: What is Wesleyan Discipleship?

Key Points:

- Discipleship = Becoming more like Jesus in love, character, and action
- John Wesley’s holistic vision: “The whole gospel for the whole person”
- Emphasis on **grace** (prevenient, justifying, sanctifying)

- Discipleship happens through both personal and social holiness
- Wesley's method: Scripture, tradition, reason, experience ("the Wesleyan Quadrilateral" from Outler)
- Importance of means of grace (prayer, communion, service, worship, etc.)

Visual Aid: Use a triangle labeled with:

- Grace (God's initiative)
- Community (class meetings, accountability, worship)
- Practice (acts of mercy, devotion, and justice)

### Group Exploration: The General Rules

Handout: The Three General Rules of the Methodist Societies:

1. Do no harm
2. Do good
3. Stay in love with God (attend the ordinances of God)

Discussion Questions (in pairs or small groups):

- Which rule resonates most with you? Why?
- Where do you see these values in your own life?
- What might be challenging about these rules?

Creative Engagement (if time): Invite each group to rewrite one of the rules in modern, everyday language or even as a short hashtag or meme caption.

### Scripture Reflection: Acts 2:42–47

Read aloud: Acts 2:42–47

Prompt: "How do you see Wesleyan discipleship reflected in the early church?"

Discuss how these practices (teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, prayer, generosity) are mirrored in UMC life today.

### Reflection: "Next Step"

Prompt Questions:

- What is one area of your faith life where you sense God nudging you to grow?
- What practice or habit could help you deepen your discipleship?

## Closing Prayer

- Form a circle, invite brief one-word reflections on what stood out from the session.
- Close in prayer, optionally using Welsey's Covenant Prayer (handout)