



Wesleyan Ways: Exploring our Methodist Roots

Episode 5: Warmhearted Discussion Guide

Discussion Questions

1. The episode centers on the idea of being *warm-hearted* rather than merely right-minded. How do you understand the difference between having correct beliefs and having a transformed heart?
2. John Wesley's Aldersgate experience is often summarized as his heart being "strangely warmed." What does that phrase suggest about how God works within us?
3. The conversation highlights that faith is not only something we think or say, but something we *feel and live*. Where have you experienced faith as something more than intellectual agreement?
4. How does a warm-hearted faith shape the way we relate to others—especially those who think, believe, or live differently than we do?
5. Wesley insisted that Christian faith involves both personal experience and communal accountability. How do those two work together in your own spiritual life?
6. Transformation often happens gradually rather than instantly. Where do you see slow, steady grace at work in your life?
7. How might focusing too heavily on rules, correctness, or certainty cool our hearts over time? What practices help keep faith alive and responsive?
8. In what ways does a warm-hearted faith lead naturally to acts of mercy, justice, and compassion?
9. Wesley believed that assurance of God's love empowers believers to love others more freely. How has knowing you are loved by God affected the way you love others?
10. The episode challenges listeners to examine whether their faith is marked more by fear or by love. Which one tends to lead your decisions, and why?



11. How can churches create space for people to experience God's grace personally, not just learn about it?
12. What might it look like for your congregation to prioritize forming *warm-hearted disciples* in today's world?

Paying Attention to the Heart

Invite participants to sit quietly for a few moments. Ask them to reflect on the following questions silently or in writing:

- When have I felt most alive in my faith?
- Where do I sense God's warmth—or absence—right now?
- What might God be inviting me to trust more deeply?

Close by praying together:

God of grace, warm our hearts with your love.
Where we are weary, renew us.
Where we are fearful, assure us.
Where we are cold or distant, draw us closer.
Make us people of living, loving faith. Amen.

Next Steps

Choose one practice to engage intentionally:

- Begin each day with a brief prayer asking God to awaken your heart before your mind.
- Notice moments when you respond out of fear or defensiveness, and pause to ask what love might look like instead.
- Perform one intentional act of kindness or mercy without expecting recognition.
- Share a brief testimony—spoken or written—about where you have experienced God's grace.

At your next gathering, invite participants to share where they noticed their faith becoming more alive.



Terms to Know:

Warm-Hearted Faith

A faith shaped not only by belief but by lived experience, love, and assurance of God's grace.

Aldersgate Experience

John Wesley's spiritual awakening in 1738, when he felt his heart "strangely warmed" and gained assurance of God's love.

Assurance

A deep trust that one is loved and accepted by God, not earned through works but received through grace.

Means of Grace

Practices such as prayer, Scripture, worship, communion, and acts of mercy through which God nurtures faith.

Sanctification

The ongoing work of God's grace that shapes believers toward holy love in heart and life.

Additional Resources:

- *Living Our Beliefs: The United Methodist Way*, by Bishop Ken Carder (Discipleship Resources)