



Wesleyan Ways: Exploring our Methodist Roots
Episode 7: Community Centered
Discussion Guide

Discussion Questions

1. The episode describes the church as a movement rather than an institution. What do you think is the difference between the two?
2. Early Methodist groups regularly asked one another questions like, “*How is it with your soul?*” Why do you think spiritual accountability was so important to the movement?
3. The speakers suggest that modern churches can become consumers of religion. What are some signs that a church or individual might be falling into a consumer mindset?
4. Why do you think participation and shared responsibility were essential to the growth of early Methodism?
5. In what ways can generosity go beyond financial giving?
6. The episode highlights the importance of serving with people rather than just for people. What difference does that approach make?
7. What needs in your community might God be calling your church to address?
8. How might small groups or accountability relationships help people grow spiritually today?
9. The conversation emphasizes becoming the hands and feet of Christ. What does that phrase mean to you personally?
10. What practices help you grow in Christlikeness and deepen your discipleship?
11. What obstacles might prevent churches from living as a movement focused on mission?
12. If your church fully embraced this vision, how might it look different in five years?



Identify One Real Need

As a group, identify one real need in your community. It could involve hunger, loneliness, education, housing, or another concern.

Discuss:

- What gifts or resources does your group already have?
- What small step could you take to respond to that need?
- Who might you partner with to make a difference?

Consider committing to one simple act of service or generosity in the coming weeks.

Next Steps

Try one of these practices this week:

- Reflect on how God may be inviting you to use your gifts for others.
- Reach out to someone in your community who might need encouragement or support.
- Join or start a small group focused on prayer, accountability, and service.
- Look for ways your church can move from being served to serving.

At your next gathering, share about the practice you chose and the difference it made for you and others.

Terms to Know:

Methodist Movement

A renewal movement within Christianity begun by John Wesley that emphasized spiritual growth, discipleship, and social engagement.

Class Meetings

Small groups in early Methodism where believers gathered regularly for accountability, encouragement, and spiritual formation.



Sanctification

In Wesleyan theology, the lifelong process of growing in holiness and becoming more like Christ.

Missional Living

A way of life in which Christians actively participate in God's work in the world through service, compassion, and witness.

Consumer Christianity

An approach to faith where people primarily attend church to receive rather than participate in God's mission.

Additional Resources:

- *Transforming Community: The Wesleyan Way to Missional Congregations* by Henry H. Knight III and F. Douglas Powe, Jr. (Discipleship Resources, 2016).
- *Transforming Evangelism: The Wesleyan Way of Sharing Faith* by Henry H. Knight III and F. Douglas Powe, Jr. (Discipleship Resources, 2006).