

The Wesley Challenge
January 12-February 1, 2025
St. John's UMC / Texas City
Week One / Bible Study Discussion Guide
Relationship with God: An Upward Focus

Pray (use your own prayer or this one) *Everlasting God, who is your beloved Son, who is the King of the whole world; who wills to restore all things to be made new; who gives mercy to all the people of the all the nations, who with you, God, lives and reigns for ever, we ask that we find Jesus to be more real every day.*



Play video. If you do not have an Amplify Media app and you have not subscribed, scan the QR code. Enter the code **DHVYJR**. Create your free account. Download the app to your phone or browser. Log in. Then search for **The Wesley Challenge** and play the video for session 1. What did you hear in the video that resonated with you? What challenged you?

Scripture: Read John 15:1-8 to describe the relationship between human beings and Jesus. Read the passage aloud and consider the following questions:

1. Jesus says that there are two kinds of branches. What are they, and what do they symbolize?
2. What does it mean to “remain” (abide, live, stay) in Jesus? Do humans have a choice to remain, unlike branches?
3. Jesus says, “My Father is glorified when you produce much fruit and in this way prove that you are my disciples.” What does it mean to “produce much fruit”? In practical terms, what human “fruit” proves that they are disciples of Jesus?

Review the week's questions:

1. Is Jesus real to me?
2. Am I enjoying prayer?
3. Do I insist upon doing something about which my conscience is uneasy?
4. Did the Bible live in me today?
5. Did I disobey God in anything?
6. Do I pray about the money I spend?
7. Do I give time for the Bible to speak to me every day?

Respond to these prompts:

1. What was your experience moving through the questions this first week?
2. Which ones stood out to you?
3. Which ones were the most difficult to grapple with?
4. Did any of them lead to a sense of transformation as you contemplated them?
5. How did living the questions this week have an impact on your own relationship with God?
6. What was your method of engaging the questions?

Make it a Habit

Write down any spiritual disciplines and practices you can identify (prayer, reading and studying Scripture, worship, Holy Communion, acts of service and justice, etc.)

1. How do these practices bring you closer to God?
2. What habits are part of your daily routine? How do these habits give your life structure?
3. How do your daily habits reveal your faith and values?
4. How has asking these daily questions affected your spiritual life this week?

Closing prayer (pray one of your own or use this one)

God, stir within me a passion to read your Scriptures and to regularly meditate on them throughout the days and weeks. I ask that you grant me the ability to understand what I need to put your teaching into practice. Help me to remember that good intentions are worthless unless connected to and rooted in your love and grace. Help the words of the Bible not to be just words on a page, but passageways of mercy into my heart. Amen.

- Material for these discussion questions comes from the Leader's Guide for ***The Wesley Challenge: 21 Days to a More Authentic Faith*** by Rev. Chris Folmsbee.