

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

Pray (use your own prayer or this one) *Jesus, you have modeled honesty—from your birth to your death, burial, and resurrection. We pray that honesty may become one of our most valued and tangible virtues. Direct our thoughts, words, and actions that we may enhance all of the relationships we are in—at home, work, school, and play. Amen.*



Play video. If you do not have an Amplify Media app and you have not subscribed, scan the QR code. Enter the code **DHVVJR**. 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 3. What did you hear in the video that resonated with you? What challenged you?

Scripture: Read Matthew 28:19-20 (The Great Commission). Read the passage and consider the following questions:

1. The author identifies two key acts for performing the gospel. The first is to serve through acts of mercy and compassion. The second is to attack and destroy systems of injustice in the world. How does this passage connect with the author's words?
2. How might speaking about one's faith live into the call of the Great Commission?
3. How are we assured in this passage that we can fulfill the Great Commission?

Review the week's questions:

1. Do I thank God that I am not like others?
2. Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am better than I am?
3. Do I confidentially pass on to others what was told to me in confidence?
4. Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy, or distrustful?
5. Am I honest in all my actions and words or do I exaggerate?
6. Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold resentment toward, or disregard?
7. When did I last speak to someone about my faith?

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?

Love and Separation

Read Romans 12:9-17 aloud to your group. How can living these principles produce a positive response to the question, "Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold resentment toward, or disregard?" Have you created or kept separation between yourself and another person because you simply don't like them? If so, ask yourself what is driving this dislike. More broadly, would you say you are at peace with God, self, and others? Why or why not?

Extra challenge:

- Why are humans so prone to gossip? Who do we seek to hold power through information? How do the environments in which we work, live, and play affect this dynamic?

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

God, teach me to serve you first and to seek your kingdom. Help me to be less concerned about myself and more about you and your mission for this world. Help me to be aware of myself, my faults, and my limitations, but also not to be so concerned with myself that I forget your purpose for me. 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.