



Student Book Leader Guide & Answer Key

How to Use the Student Book

Research shows that confirmation leaders like to “do it my way.” That’s great! You know the youth, you know what you want to teach, and you know how you want to teach.

We are committed to giving you excellent tools that will help you do what you think is important, the way you desire, and in a way that will engage the youth you serve. So here is the student book. It’s a workbook and a fun book too!

Use it as you choose in your teaching. Here are some suggestions:

- **Do a chapter at a time.** That will be easy if you are using the *6–15 Weeks Teaching Plans*.
- **Use specific pages with specific activities.** The contents pages below for both *6–15 Weeks* and the *39 Weeks Teaching Plans* give the information you need.
- **Use all or some.** That’s up to you!
- **Do in class or with mentors.**
- **Use as reinforcement or enrichment.** Some things you will cover in class; others may be “extra,” such as the bonus chapters on church history and the Bible.
- **Be sure to talk about the work done.** Let the students’ answers and reflections be a starting point for clarification and discussion. As a bonus, you’ll gain insight into your youth; and they’ll feel that you care about them!

At the end of your confirmation training, give the students their books to take home. The books contain valuable information about being a United Methodist Christian. But more important, the student book includes their personal faith reflections as they prepare to claim the name of Jesus Christ for themselves.

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For 6-15 Week Teaching Plans

Below are Teaching Plan chapters and individual activity names matched with the Student Book pages.

<p>1 Prepare for the Journey: Advent (Student Book Chapter 1)17</p> <p><i>What Is Advent?</i> page 10 <i>Why We Need a Savior</i>, pages 29, 30 <i>Wesley's Prevenient Grace</i>, page 7</p>	<p>↓</p>	<p>Advent Activities, page 10 <i>What Is Confirmation?</i> page 9</p>
<p>2 Celebrate the Birth: Christmas (Student Book Chapter 2)26</p> <p><i>Incarnation: In the Flesh</i>, page 15 Christmas Activities, page 16</p>	<p>↓</p>	
<p>3 Grow Toward Faith: Epiphany (Student Book Chapter 3)34</p> <p><i>Baptism: Entrance Into Ministry</i>, pages 17, 19 <i>Where Baptism Comes From</i>, page 18 <i>Seeing the Light</i>, page 22</p>	<p>↓</p>	<p><i>The Baptism of Our Lord</i>, page 21 Epiphany Activities, page 22</p>
<p>4 Commit to Living: United Methodist Style (Student Book Chapter 4)41</p> <p><i>Wesley Pursuit</i>, pages 23, 26–27 <i>Wesley's General Rules</i>, pages 24, 25</p>	<p>↓</p>	<p><i>Ways We Experience God</i>, page 11</p>
<p>5 Prepare for New Life: Lent (Student Book Chapter 5)50</p> <p><i>What Is Lent?</i> page 34 <i>What Is Sin?</i> page 30 <i>What Is Repentance?</i> page 32</p>	<p>↓</p>	<p><i>Wesley's Justifying Grace</i>, pages 32, 37 Lenten Activities, page 34 <i>Confession</i>, page 33</p>
<p>6 Celebrate New Life: Easter (Student Book Chapter 6)59</p> <p><i>From Sin to Salvation</i>, page 36 <i>From Death to New Life</i>, page 37 Easter Activities, page 40</p>	<p>↓</p>	<p><i>Living as Easter People</i>, page 39 <i>Means of Grace: Worship</i>, page 42</p>
<p>7 Grow in Resurrection Faith: Means of Grace (Student Book Chapter 7)65</p> <p><i>My Spiritual Autobiography</i>, page 6 <i>The Method in Methodism</i>, pages 41, 44–45</p>	<p>↓</p>	<p><i>Name That Spiritual Discipline</i>, pages 42, 46, 47 <i>Means of Grace: Intercessory Prayer</i>, page 43</p>

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	<i>Pray for Ones to Serve</i> , page 51 <i>Foot Washing</i> , page 52	
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Answer Key

Here are answers to factual or definitive questions. Activities and questions that call for interpretation or personal reflection are not a part of this answer key.

Get Ready!

page 7

John Wesley had a term for that:
PREVENIENT grace.

1. fo**r**Giveness
2. Ch**R**istians
3. pe**A**ce
4. ch**u**rCh
5. lo**v**E

page 8

What do we call a people who seek to love God and to love others? Check all that apply. **ALL APPLY.**

- √ **_CHRISTIANS**
- √ **_COMMUNITY OF FAITH**
- √ **_FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST**
- √ **_THE CHURCH**
- √ **_THE BODY OF CHRIST**
- √ **_UNITED METHODISTS**

page 9

Circle four letters in a row in the word *confirmation* that help you know what the word means: To make **FIRM** that which has gone before or that was done earlier.

The sacrament of **BAPTISM** recognizes that God loves us even before we may be aware of that fact.

But now, it's **OUR** turn! In confirmation, we can decide whether we want to accept that gift. We can **CLAIM** the name *Christian* for ourselves.

page 10

ADVENT

Meaning of the word
COMING

Events in Jesus' life
TIME OF PREPARATION FOR THE BIRTH/COMING OF CHRIST

Colors and meanings

PURPLE—ROYALTY, SORROW AND PENITENCE

BLUE—HOPE

When

FOUR SUNDAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

God

page 12

God is like . . .

WATER, A TREE, A HUMAN BEING, THE HUMAN MIND, A TRIANGLE

We call this three-in-one understanding of God, the **TRINITY.**

page 13

Genesis 18:25 (**JUDGE**)

Psalms 18:2-3 (**ROCK, DELIVERER, FORTRESS, SHIELD, STRONGHOLD, WORTHY TO BE PRAISED**)

Psalms 27:1-2 (**LIGHT, SALVATION, STRONGHOLD**)

Isaiah 66:13 (**COMFORTER**)

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (**FATHER OF ALL MERCIES, GOD OF ALL CONSOLATION**)

Matthew 5:43-48 (**ONE WHO IS PERFECT, WHO LOVES ALL**)

Luke 15:3-7 (**ONE WHO SEEKS FOR THE LOST**)

Luke 15:11-24 (**ONE WHO WELCOMES THE REPENTANT**)

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In the season of Christmas we celebrate God coming to be with us in human form as **JESUS CHRIST.**

We often sing carols that use the word, *Emmanuel*, which means **GOD with US.**

Another way we talk about the coming of Jesus Christ is as the Incarnation, or God in **THE FLESH/HUMAN FORM.**

CHRISTMAS

Calendar dates

DECEMBER 25**DECEMBER 25–JANUARY 6**

Event in Jesus' life

BIRTH

Colors

WHITE OR GOLD (White symbolizes purity and holiness. Gold symbolizes wealth, precious things, divinity, and sacredness.)

Baptism

John the Baptist baptized **JESUS** in the River Jordan. At that time, the heavens opened, a dove descended, and God's voice declared, "This is my beloved **SON**" (Luke 3:21-22).

Later, after Jesus' resurrection, Jesus told his followers to make disciples, **BAPTIZING** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).

Consequently, we celebrate baptism, along with Holy Communion, as a **SACRAMENT**, or special means of God's grace coming to us.

In The United Methodist Church, we baptize **INFANTS** and persons who are older. Baptizing **INFANTS** is a symbol of a free gift.

Persons who are baptized as older children, youth, or adults are **DECIDING/CHOOSING** for themselves to accept God's love.

In The United Methodist Church, we affirm the importance and power of baptism for both **INFANTS** and for persons who are making the choice themselves.

Name the three ways persons can be baptized.

1. **SPRINKLING**
2. **IMMERSION**
3. **POURING**

Jesus' baptism marked the beginning of his ministry. One way to think about baptism is that it is a door into the community of faith (also called the **CHURCH**).

Believers
Altar
Pouring
Tank
Infants
Sprinkling
Ministry

United Methodists believe that it is important to be baptized in the presence of the church (not the building, but the **PEOPLE**).

Q Can we be baptized more than once?

A Once is enough! Baptism is **GOD'S** gift.

Q What about special times when we want to rededicate our lives?

A There are special ways to celebrate times of spiritual rededication. Look at the services in *The United Methodist HYMNAL*.

EPIPHANY

Calendar dates

JANUARY 6**FOUR TO NINE SUNDAYS, DEPENDING UPON EASTER**

Events in Jesus' life

BAPTISM**ENTRY INTO MINISTRY****TRANSFIGURATION**

Colors

WHITE FOR FIRST AND LAST SUNDAYS
GREEN THE REST OF THE TIME

Symbols

SHELL, BAPTISMAL FONT**LIGHT (CANDLES)**

A Bit of History

- F** 1. The person who is known as the founder of Methodism is Charles Wesley. **ALTHOUGH CHARLES WAS A BIG INFLUENCE, JOHN WESLEY IS CREDITED AS THE FOUNDER.**

- T** 2. Charles Wesley and his brother John were home-schooled by their mother, Susannah, who spent special time with each of her many children to teach the faith.
- F** 3. The father of Charles and John was a prominent lawyer and a very religious man. **SAMUEL WESLEY WAS AN ORDAINED CLERGYMAN IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.**
- T** 4. At Oxford University Charles and John were leaders in the Holy Club whose members prayed, studied the Bible, visited persons who were sick or in prison, and helped the poor.
- F** 5. Other students at the university called the Holy Club members Methodists because they were very impressed with how organized the group was in doing good. **STUDENTS MADE FUN OF THE HOLY CLUB. "METHODIST" WAS A TERM OF DERISION.**
- T** 6. Charles and John were both ordained clergymen in the Church of England.
- F** 7. In 1735 John Wesley went to North Carolina to be the pastor for the Church of England people in the colonies. Despite his success there, he returned to England in 1738. **JOHN WENT TO SAVANNAH, GEORGIA, AS A MISSIONARY TO THE NATIVE AMERICANS. HE CAME HOME A MISERABLE FAILURE ON SEVERAL LEVELS.**
- F** 8. After a special "heartwarming" experience of God, John decided to start a new church, which he called The United Methodist Church. **JOHN NEVER INTENDED TO START A NEW CHURCH.**
- T** 9. Although many people responded to the Methodist message of God's gracious love and the joy of holy living, others threw rotten fruit or stones at the preachers and chased them out of town. Some people really became angry with the Methodist "call to holy living."
- T** 10. The Methodist movement was unusual for the time because lay persons, including women, were preachers and leaders.

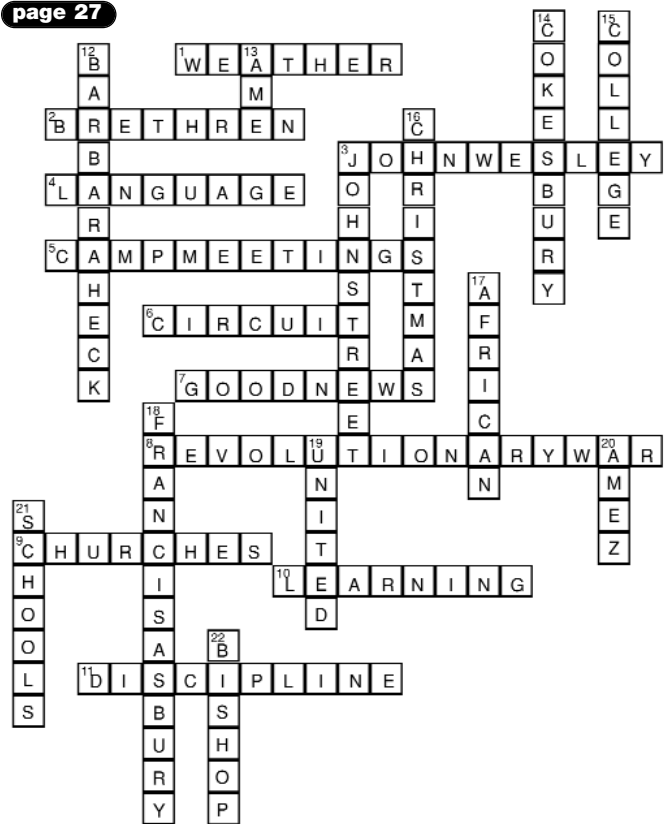
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First, do **NO HARM**.
 Secondly, do **GOOD**.
 Thirdly, do all you can to draw closer to **GOD**.

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1. **graCe**
2. **JoHn**
3. **Asleep**
4. **spiRitually**
5. **PsaLter**
6. **fivE**
7. **S**
8. **Worship**
9. **E**
10. **firSt**
11. **Lord's**
12. **E**
13. **hYmnal**

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What's Wrong?

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Main Characters

1. **GOD**, 2. **ADAM**, 3. **EVE**, 4. **SERPENT**

Place and time

IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN, IN THE BEGINNING

Sequence of Events Before Eve eats the fruit
GOD PUT MAN IN THE GARDEN WITH A WARNING NOT TO EAT OF THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL

SERPENT CONVINCES EVE THAT GOD WOULD NOT LET HER DIE AND THAT SHE WOULD BE LIKE GOD IF SHE ATE. EVE GAVE SOME TO ADAM ALSO.

Main conflict

TO DO AS TOLD, ACCEPTING GOD'S RULES, OR TO DO AS TEMPTED, TO TAKE ON GOD-LIKE POWER.

Consequences of eating the fruit

THEIR EYES WERE OPENED; THEY REALIZED THAT THEY WERE NAKED (EXPOSED).

ADAM BLAMED EVE; SHE BLAMED THE SERPENT FOR THEIR ACTIONS.

FOREVER, SERPENT WILL CRAWL ON ITS BELLY IN THE DIRT AND WOMAN WILL HATE IT.

WOMAN WILL HAVE PAIN IN CHILDBIRTH.

MAN WILL RULE OVER WOMAN.

MAN WILL HAVE TO WORK HARD.

IN TIME MAN AND WOMAN WILL DIE.

GOD CARED FOR (CLOTHED) THEM. MAN AND WOMAN KNOW GOOD AND EVIL.

GOD DROVE THEM OUT OF THE GARDEN.

page 33

T God is always active in our lives.

F We have to be really good and not commit any sins in order to earn God's forgiveness. **SEE GRACE.**

T Grace is like a second chance.

T The heart of the problem is that we "misplace" God, forgetting or refusing to keep God at the center of our lives.

T Penitence is being sorry for our sin and our sins.

F You can be sorry, but you don't need to tell anyone—even God. **SEE CONFESSION, REPENTANCE, PENITENCE, 1 JOHN 1:9.**

F Some people are so good that they are not sinners. **SEE ROMANS 3:23.**

F Not sinning is easy—you just have to make up your mind and stick to it! **SEE ROMANS 7:15.**

T God makes a right relationship possible, but we have to want it and respond to God's offer.

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LENT

How long the season is and when it begins
BEGINS WITH ASH WEDNESDAY AND GOES FOR 40 DAYS,

Day of the week not included and why
SUNDAYS—THEY ARE CELEBRATED AS "LITTLE EASTER"

Holy Week events in Jesus' life
PALM SUNDAY—TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

HOLY (MAUNDY) THURSDAY—PASSOVER, LAST SUPPER, FOOT WASHING

GOOD FRIDAY—CRUCIFIXION

Color and its meaning
PURPLE FOR PENITENCE AND PREPARATION

Jesus Christ—Savior and Lord

page 35

The Jewish people 2000+ years ago were expecting a messiah, a **SAVIOR**, someone who would save them from the oppression of the Romans. On what we celebrate now as **PALM** Sunday, they thought Jesus would be the one. But Jesus regularly turned people's expectations upside down. His riding into the city on a **DONKEY** instead of a handsome horse should have been a clue. . . .

First, instead of having a servant do this, which was the expected thing, Jesus did it: He **WASHED THE FEET** of the disciples.

Second, he took the bread and the cup, but he added something new to their meaning: Jesus told the disciples that the bread represents **HIS BODY** and the wine represents **HIS BLOOD**.

The most surprising thing Jesus did, however, occurred early on a Sunday morning. Jesus **ROSE FROM THE DEAD**.

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But God provided a way for us to overcome the power of sin . . . God gave God's own Son, indeed God's own Self, to die so that we could live. That's called the **ATONEMENT**, or putting us back "at-one" with God.

We are saved *from* **THE POWER OF SIN AND DEATH**, but what are we saved *for*?

John Wesley named this saving action through Jesus Christ as God's **JUSTIFYING** grace.

page 39

Which of these statements do you think fit the Christian "code" for Jesus Christ, our Lord? Check all that apply. **ALL APPLY**.

- √_1. We want to do what Jesus taught us that we should do.
- √_2. We turn to Jesus Christ in the difficult and crisis times in our lives, trusting him for protection and care.
- √_3. We often ask ourselves, "What would the Lord require of us in this situation?"
- √_4. We know our loyalty is to Jesus Christ rather than to other people, religions, ideas, or things.
- √_5. We are aware of Christ's love and care for us.

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EASTER

When it begins; how long it lasts
BEGINS ON EASTER SUNDAY AND GOES UNTIL PENTECOST (50 DAYS)

Event in Jesus' life
RESURRECTION

Colors
WHITE, GOLD

Symbols
EMPTY CROSS
EMPTY TOMB
BUTTERFLY
EASTER EGG
NEW LIFE

Means of Grace: Loving God

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Some specific practices of faith that Christians do help us grow closer to God. Some people call them **SPIRITUAL** disciplines; John Wesley called them **MEANS** of grace. He named two kinds: **WORKS** of piety, which help us grow closer to God directly, and works of **MERCY**, which help us grow closer to God through serving our neighbors.

- D** 1. Worship begins by coming into God's presence.
- C** 2. In God's presence, we realize and confess our shortcomings.
- A** 3. In God's presence, we receive forgiveness or our sins.
- B** 4. As a forgiven people, we hear God's Word in Scripture and sermon.
- E** 5. After hearing God's call for our lives, we respond.

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HOLY COMMUNION reminds us that we share the meal as a community of faith.
LORD'S SUPPER is a name that reminds us that we share a meal with Jesus Christ.
EUCCHARIST comes from a Greek word that means thanksgiving.
LAST SUPPER refers to the meal this sacrament commemorates.

TRUE or False? In The United Methodist tradition this sacrament is an offering of God, and therefore the Table is open to all persons, of all ages, who desire to be closer to God.

- F 1. Prayer is telling God what you need; and God either says OK, no, or later. **PRAYER IS NOT SO SIMPLISTIC.**
- F 2. God won't do things for you unless you pray about what you want or need. **GOD IS ALWAYS ACTIVE IN OUR LIVES; WE CALL THAT PREVENIENT GRACE.**
- T 3. Through prayer we develop our relationship with God. Prayer brings us closer to God.
- T 4. Through prayer we develop an "attitude of gratitude."
- T 5. Prayer can be listening to God—not just talking to God.
- T 6. Praying is essential for Christians.
- T 7. Even if we don't understand how prayer works, we know it has power.

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This group of young students was the **HOLY CLUB**. Other students made fun of them and called them **METHODISTS** because they were so methodical in practicing their faith.

Participating in Bible study is one of the "means of **GRACE**."

Means of Grace: Serving Others

page 47

In addition to works of **PIETY**, showing devotion to God, United Methodists also see works of mercy as means of God's grace.

**Disciplines
follow**

**neiGhbors
foD
missiOn
CommanDments**

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We are a **CONNECTIONAL** church.

One way we join together is through our apportionments. . . . But each church is only giving a **PORTION** of the cost.

The Holy Spirit

page 53

You remember Peter, don't you? When Jesus said, "**FOLLOW** me," Peter was right there! He was one of the first disciples (Matthew 4:18-20). He was convinced Jesus was the **MESSIAH**; he was the first to say so.

Jesus saw lots of potential in Peter. He said, "You are a **ROCK**," and changed his name from Simon to Peter, which also means **ROCK** (Matthew 16:13-18).

Peter did some crazy things. He saw Jesus **WALK** on water, and he tried it too. Jesus had to rescue him (Matthew 14:22-33). When the soldiers came to arrest Jesus in the garden, Peter pulled a sword and cut off the **EAR** of one of the men with the soldiers (John 18:10). Jesus had to put it back on and heal the wound (Luke 22:51).

Peter said some crazy things too. He told Jesus he would never desert Jesus. But Jesus said, "This very **NIGHT**, before the cock crows, you will deny me **THREE** times" (Matthew 26:33-35).

And sure enough, when Jesus was arrested, tried, tortured, and crucified, where was Peter? Hanging out in the background! When someone pointed him out as a follower of Jesus, he flat out said, "I do not **KNOW** the man!" (Matthew 27:69-75).

Even after Jesus' resurrection, even though Jesus had tried to tell the disciples about his death and resurrection to come, Peter just didn't "get it." He went back to his old job, **FISHING**. But Jesus was there! He challenged Peter to take on a new "job": "Feed my **SHEEP**" (John 21:1-19).

Before Jesus was taken up into heaven, he instructed Peter and the rest of his followers to wait for the coming of the **HOLY SPIRIT** (Acts 1:4-11). When the day of Pentecost came, the disciples were touched with tongues of **FIRE/FLAME**. And Peter, with great

power, stood before the crowd of people and began to preach the good news. Every person there understood him in his or her own **LANGUAGE**. Peter's message moved the people greatly, and that day **3,000** people repented, were baptized, and became followers of **JESUS CHRIST** (Acts 2:1-4).

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Peter was able to **HEAL** a man who had been unable to walk for nearly forty years (Acts 3:1-10). When the people gathered in amazement, Peter again preached about Jesus. Nearly **5,000** people became followers as a result!

Also, as a result, the religious leaders had him arrested! Instead of backing off, as he had when Jesus was arrested, despite threats and orders to stop, Peter was bold and said, "We cannot keep from speaking about what we have **SEEN** and **HEARD**" (Acts 4:1-22).

What happened to Peter? What made the difference in his life and ministry? **THE HOLY SPIRIT**

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- T** 1. As a result of the Pentecost experience, the church came into being.
- T** 2. Although the early Christians did not call it Sunday school, they spent a lot of time learning from the apostles' teaching.
- F** 3. The early church members built a beautiful sanctuary to honor Jesus. **THEY MET IN HOMES.**
- F** 4. People immediately started calling the followers of Jesus Christ "Christians." **IN ANTIOCH THE DISCIPLES WERE FIRST CALLED "CHRISTIANS" (ACTS 11:26).**
- F** 5. People who became a part of the early church only ate bread. **THEY HAD COMMUNION.**
- T** 6. Being baptized was a sign of change in a person's life when he or she decided to follow Christ Jesus and join the church.
- T** 7. One reason the church grew so fast was that people saw the new Christians being glad and generous and praising God.
- F** 8. New church members were required to pray three times a day. **THERE WAS NO SUCH REQUIREMENT, JUST THE TEACHING TO PRAY.**

- F** 9. New church members were required to sell all their possessions and give the money to the church. **THERE WAS NO SUCH REQUIREMENT, BUT MANY PEOPLE DID SO FOR THE COMMON GOOD.**
- T** 10. From the very beginning the church cared for persons in need.
- T** 11. The early church selected some people to devote themselves specifically to service so others could focus more on prayer and the Word.
- T** 12. Some of the Jewish priests became part of the early church.
- F** 13. Once the priests joined, the problems of persecution stopped. **PERSECUTION IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE CONTINUED FOR 300+ YEARS; SOME CHRISTIANS TODAY FACE PERSECUTION.**
- F** 14. No people outside of Jerusalem were among the first members, especially not people from Samaria or Africa. **PHILIP (REMEMBER THE ETHIOPIAN) AND OTHER DISCIPLES WON CONVERTS IN BOTH REGIONS.**
- T** 15. Jesus commanded the disciples (and us) to bring people into the church.

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PENTECOST
 When it occurs
50 DAYS AFTER EASTER

Color for the day
RED

Events in Jesus' time
**COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
BIRTH OF THE CHURCH**

Symbols
DOVE, FLAMES OF FIRE

Life in the Spirit

page 59

God's grace is at work in us, helping us "go on to perfection." Wesley called that **SANCTIFYING** grace" or "sanctification."

"TRULY IN THIS PERSON THE LOVE OF GOD HAS REACHED PERFECTION."

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SEASON AFTER PENTECOST

Common symbol
CROWN

Teachings of Jesus that are emphasized
KINGDOM OF GOD

Another name for the season
KINGDOMTIDE

Calendar dates
**DAY AFTER PENTECOST THROUGH
THE DAY BEFORE ADVENT**

Primary color
GREEN TO SIGNIFY GROWTH

Trinity Sunday
FIRST SUNDAY, WHITE, THE TRINITY

All Saints Day
**NOVEMBER 1, WHITE, "SAINTS" OF THE
FAITH WHO HAVE DIED**

Christ the King Sunday
**LAST SUNDAY, WHITE, THE TRIUMPH
OF CHRIST/KINGDOM OF GOD**

Being United Methodist

page 65

The Cross stands for **THE CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST, WHICH IS AN ACT OF REDEMPTION FOR OUR SIN AND MAKES IT POSSIBLE TO BE BACK IN RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.**

The Flame reminds us **OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The Flame has two parts because **IT REPRESENTS THE COMING TOGETHER OF THE METHODIST CHURCH AND THE EVANGELICAL UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH IN 1968.**

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Every **FOUR** years **GENERAL** Conference meets for two weeks to consider the direction and business of the church. The decisions made there are the official word of the church for at least the next four years, which is also called the "quadrennium." These decisions become a part of our official set of rules, the Book of **DISCIPLINE.**

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5 Deacons **1** Bishop **4** Pastor
3 Cabinet **2** District superintendent (DS)
6 Laypersons

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5 General Board of Discipleship (GBOD)
3 General Board of Church and Society (GBCS)
7 General Commission on Religion and Race
2 The United Methodist Publishing House (UMPH)
6 United Methodist Youth Organization (UMYO)
1 United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)
4 General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM)

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As Christians, United Methodists hold many beliefs in common with other **CHRISTIANS/FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST** of all times and nations. In addition, we have some emphases and practices that are distinctly our own Wesleyan way.

United Methodists emphasize God's **GRACE**. John Wesley identified three kinds of grace: prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying. In other words, God's **LOVE/GRACE** is with us throughout our lives. We need only to claim it and live it.

United Methodists emphasize *both* works of **PIETY** (for growing closer to God) and works of **MERCY** (for caring for the needs of others). Think of a connected circle of people around God at the center. If the people step closer to God, they automatically move closer to each other. If the people come closer to each other, they automatically are stepping closer to the center, God.

United Methodists emphasize *both* individual and corporate action as a response to our faith. Being a **CONNECTIONAL** church, working together to address needs, is one of the hallmarks of United Methodism.

United Methodists are active in the world, working for social **JUSTICE** as well as telling others the good news of Christ. Our Social **PRINCIPLES** are a carefully and prayerfully thought-out guide for action for individuals, for congregations, and for the denomination. Every four years **GENERAL CONFERENCE** addresses emerging and continuing needs, producing the *Book of Resolutions* as additional guides.

United Methodists emphasize **THINKING** for oneself. There are definitely core beliefs and guidelines; but instead of telling persons exactly what they must believe, the church encourages them to wrestle with the faith and to arrive at their own understandings in light of those core beliefs and guidelines.

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United Methodists practice discerning God's will and making decisions using these guidelines, called the **WESLEYAN** Quadrilateral:

SCRIPTURE is primary; it is the starting point and the most important.

TRADITION is what Christians have agreed upon over the last 2000 years; it is our faith heritage.

EXPERIENCE is what we know to be true from our own lives and faith, especially from our experience with God.

REASON is using our own God-given ability to think.

United Methodists are inclusive. People who are different from one another worship and work **TOGETHER** in Christ's name. People with different ideas find a welcoming atmosphere. **OPEN** hearts. Open minds. **OPEN** doors. That's being United Methodists!

We Believe

page 73

1. God loves all persons **F**
2. God loves only some persons **A**
3. The Holy Spirit guides me **E**
4. I'm pretty much on my own **C**
5. Being in the church is important **B**
6. I can be a Christian by myself **D**

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When you are baptized, you are baptized into the faith of the church, the **CHRISTIAN** faith. When you are confirmed, it is not only *your* faith that you profess but also the faith of the **CHURCH**.

Christians believe in God as revealed in **JESUS CHRIST**, our Savior, experienced through the **HOLY SPIRIT**, and lived out in love toward **GOD** and **NEIGHBOR**.

Christians, all across the world, both now and in history, recognize the **APOSTLES'** Creed as a basic statement of what the church believes. . . .

After much searching of the Scriptures, prayer, and dialogue, the Council of Nicaea in the year A.D. 325 declared that indeed Jesus Christ is fully **DIVINE** and fully **HUMAN**.

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The good news is that regardless of what challenges we face, Christ has overcome the ultimate power of sin and death. Through Christ we have both the promise of

ETERNAL LIFE and **PEACE, LOVE, HOPE, JOY, STRENGTH,** and **COURAGE** for living each day—no matter what happens in life.

S T T J Y E V O P O Y
E T E R N A L L I F E
 L O V P S R O V L P C
 S T R E N G T P O C A
 V C J A Y U E H V O E
 S O Y C J O A C S U P
 S T **C O U R A G E R** O
 O L P S J **E V O L** A G
 P E A C V H C O S G T
 E T **S T R E N G T H** H
 V C J A Y U E H V O E

A Brief History

page 79

The Christian church began with the **RESURRECTION** of Jesus Christ and the coming of the Holy Spirit at **PENTECOST** . . .

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Off and on for about 300 years Christians were **PERSECUTED**, especially by the Roman government. However, when the Emperor **CONSTANTINE** became a Christian, the atmosphere changed. Later his grandson made **CHRISTIANITY** the official religion of the Roman Empire.

Soon differences in language, culture, and understandings of the faith (not to mention issues of who had the power!) caused a split. The results were the eastern or **ORTHODOX** Church (Greek, Russian, and others) and the western branch, which was later known as the Roman Catholic Church. (The word **CATHOLIC** means universal. . . .

Since the church is made up of imperfect people (remember sin?), over time some pretty imperfect practices grew up in the church. A monk, **MARTIN LUTHER**, wrote out 95 points and posted them on the church door to call for **REFORM** in the church.

That incident might have just stirred things up in that little corner of the world, except for

the fact that the **PRINTING PRESS** had recently been invented. The word spread. Other people joined the **PROTEST** against the abuses of the faith. Soon the complaint became a movement, called the **PROTESTANT REFORMATION**.

Again, the church split; this time, into Catholics and **PROTESTANTS**. However, the Protestants didn't all agree about how the reform should go. **LUTHERANS** followed Luther's ideas. Calvinists followed another reformer, John Calvin. (Today's **PRESBYTERIAN** churches come from that branch.) Baptists also came on the scene. Their major differences with the other reformers was over (you guessed it) **BAPTISM**.

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One "staunch" Roman Catholic during this time was King Henry VIII of England. However, when he wanted to **DIVORCE** his wife and the pope said no, Henry conveniently become a Protestant, divorced (several times), formed the **CHURCH OF ENGLAND** . . .

Of course, religion wasn't the real issue. **GREED AND POWER** played a big part in that mess. (Are we surprised?) . . .

They say history repeats itself. Like Luther, **JOHN WESLEY** did not want to start a new church. . . . So many people responded to the good news and the method of organization Wesley set up, that soon the Church of England found itself bypassed by the rapidly spreading **METHODIST MOVEMENT**.

Methodism crossed the ocean to **AMERICA** and then rivers, mountains, and all kinds of terrain. Despite the hardships, **CIRCUIT RIDERS** took the gospel and the Methodist way throughout the American frontier.

Unfortunately, it wasn't long before **AFRICAN AMERICAN** Methodists felt the sting of discrimination even in church. Many left to form their own Methodist denominations in the early 1800s.

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In 1830 another group split off primarily over the issue of how much power a bishop had over the people. But the biggest split was just

before the **CIVIL WAR**. Like the country, the church became divided over the issue of **SLAVERY**. . . .

However, the church still didn't get things right in relation to its African American members, who were segregated within the church structure. It took the **CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT** of the 1960s to change the church—and it took the church to help lead the Civil Rights Movement!

OK, let's backtrack for a minute. Around 1800 there were some other groups that were basically following the Methodist way. But in the early years they spoke **GERMAN** instead of English. So the United Brethren and the Evangelical Association formed their own denominations; in 1946 they got together as the **EVANGELICAL UNITED BRETHREN** or EUB Church.

Finally, in 1968 The Methodist Church and the EUBs joined to become **THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**. You may have noticed the two parts to the flame on our symbol, the **CROSS AND FLAME**. That's to honor the two traditions coming together as one around our center, which is Jesus Christ. . . .

We're not perfect, but with God's help we're **GOING ON TO PERFECTION!**

Bible Significa

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ABOUT THE BIBLE

Which one of these is *not* a part of how the Bible came to be? **B**

We respect the Bible because it **B**

People compare the Bible to a library . . . **B**

People often compare the Bible to a lamp . . . **C**

There are so many different English-language versions of the Bible because **C**

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United Methodists believe that the Bible contains all truth necessary for **B**

When people quote the Bible to make a point, **C**

The Bible primarily gets its authority in people's lives because **D**

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Which of the following statements is true for these Bible people, places, and events?

FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. Adam and Eve, A
2. Garden of Eden, B
3. Noah, B
4. Abraham, A
5. Isaac, A
6. Joseph, C
7. Moses' life, A, C, D
8. Mount Sinai, B
9. Joshua, A
10. Promised Land, C
11. Deborah, B
12. Ruth, A
13. Samuel, A
14. David, C
15. Solomon, D
16. Esther, A
17. Job, B
18. Jeremiah, C
19. Babylon, C
20. Prophets, B

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FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

1. Mary, mother of Jesus, A
2. John the Baptist, A
3. Jesus Christ, D
4. Matthew, C
5. Mary Magdalene, A
6. Pharisees, B
7. Kingdom of heaven, B
8. Good Samaritan, B
9. Mary and Martha, B
10. Zacchaeus, C
11. Pontius Pilate, C
12. Calvary, B
13. Thomas, B
14. Philip and the Ethiopian, D
15. Paul, D
16. Timothy, B