

**SMALL GROUP
AND SUNDAY
SERMON SERIES**



CELEBRATING METHODISM



JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE OUR METHODIST HERITAGE
2 - 23 November 2025

Week 1	2 November	A heart strangely warmed
Week 2	9 November	Do all the good you can
Week 3	16 November	The world is my parish
Week 4	23 November	Let us be nothing, that Christ may be all
ADVENT I:	30 November	The best of all, God is with us

Welcome to Celebrating METHODISM Series: November 2025

As the lectionary year draws to a close and we prepare to enter the season of Advent, November offers us a beautiful moment to reflect on who we are as Methodist people. “*Celebrating Methodism*” is an invitation to rediscover our roots and ways to live out the spirit and teachings of John and Charles Wesley in our present time. Throughout this month, we celebrate the faith of those who came before us, the shared identity that binds us as Methodists, and the ongoing call to be a people shaped by grace, holiness, and mission. As we journey through the lectionary readings, we will draw on five well-known Wesleyan sayings - words that have shaped our heritage and can still guide our faith today. Each week’s reflection connects a Wesleyan insight with the Scripture readings, helping us prepare to enter Advent with renewed faith and spiritual energy.

Home Groups and classes guide:

1. Open in Worship and Prayer: this is to invite God into the meeting. For example, you can light a candle, sing together, or use a YouTube Hymn or song.
2. Open your Bibles and read the Bible verses for this week (take turns?) see below.
3. Reflect on the Bible verses and the reflection written by a Minister or Lay Preacher.
4. Connect with each other and take the reflection deeper by answering the Questions.
5. Works out: What have we learned that we can apply in our lives in this session? Keep each other accountable for promises made or important steps taken. Pray for and over each other (after taking prayer requests).

Week 3: 16 NOVEMBER

The world is my parish



When John Wesley said, “*The world is my parish*,” he wasn’t just talking about geography or being a well-travelled preacher. Think of it more like this: our faith isn’t meant to be kept within the four walls of our home church, as comforting and vital as that church family is. It’s the idea that God’s love and our call to live it out don’t stop at the church parking lot. It travels with us: to workplaces, when shopping, when cheering our kids and even to the quiet of our own kitchen tables. Your ‘parish’ has no fences or boundaries; but it is wherever your feet take you!

WORSHIP SONG: “Will your anchor hold”. (Tune: Will Your Anchor Hold – 3vv....)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6r3h7OhsZxw>

READINGS:

Isaiah 65:17-25

Psalms 98

Luke 21: 5-19

REFLECTION WRITTEN BY: REV ZAMANI SIKUPELA

Isaiah paints a picture of the new heavens and the new earth, to which God has been leading his people for so long, the prophet uses images from life as we know it now - to communicate life as we'll know it then. The gospel promises a new heaven and a new earth; that God will create a new world without sin or suffering. This is a promise that, those in Christ can face life with a new perspective and joy independent of circumstances.

What if heaven is less about escaping to the clouds and more about being with Jesus, who is making everything new? The purpose of heaven is to undo death in all its forms – restoring what was lost and healing what was shattered. If this is true, then heaven's power isn't just for someday, but is also for here and now. We're set free from trying to make heaven on earth because this world is not our home.

Psalms 98. The dominant thought about this Psalm is that it refers to the events related to the Exodus from Egypt – that the deliverance was due not to the might of Moses, or to the weakness of the Pharaoh, but to the strong hand of God. That having happened once, nothing is impossible in the future. The position may be humanly hopeless, but *“Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save”*. Psalm 98 urged the people of God to sing **“a new song.”** This psalm calls the entire world to worship – to make a joyful noise, enthusiastic praise to the Lord. People should be glad to know that God reigns. This looks to the end of times when the Lord will bring perfect and inescapable justice to the world. When that happens, all people will be blessed by the rule of a God who does all things rightly.

Luke 21:5-19. Jesus did not leave his disciples unprepared for the difficult years ahead. He warned them about the false messiahs, natural disasters, and persecutions. Jesus encourages His followers to be frightened neither by major world events nor by personal persecution. Yet His promise that *“not a hair of your head”* will perish must be viewed in light of the statement in verse 16, that some of the disciples will be put to death. Followers of Jesus will not perish eternally, though they may pay a high price for discipleship. Believers would not be exempt from physical harm or death during the persecutions, but none of his followers would suffer spiritual or eternal loss. On earth everyone will die, but believers in Jesus will be saved for eternal life.

GROUP/CLASS QUESTIONS:

1. Does God have a plan for the world?
2. How can I trust in God when there is suffering in the world?
3. How should I react when I don't know how the future will unfold?
4. How can I make the most of the life God has given me?

MEMORY VERSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday:

Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future”.

Tuesday:

Isaiah 41:10

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand”.

Wednesday:

Proverbs 3:5-6

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight”.

Thursday:

Romans 12:12

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer”

Friday:

Hebrews 6:19

“Just as an anchor keeps a ship steady during a storm – we have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure”

Saturday:

Isaiah 40:31

“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint”.

FAMILY TIME: WRITTEN BY: MAGGOGODI NKUUA

Scripture Reading: Acts 1:8 (NIV) *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*



Wesleyan Saying: “The World Is My Parish”

Opening Thought

John Wesley’s declaration, *“The world is my parish,”* is a powerful reminder that our faith is not meant to be confined to the walls of a church or the comfort of our homes. Christianity, especially Methodism is a living, breathing witness to the world. Sometimes, the way we live out our faith may be the only glimpse of Christ someone ever sees. That’s why we must be bold and intentional in how we reflect Jesus in our everyday lives.

Family Reflection

We are not called to live out our faith in our own strength. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to give us courage, wisdom as we share the good news. When we feel hesitant or afraid to speak about our faith, we can ask the Holy Spirit to fill us with boldness and love. Our mission is global, but it starts right where we are.

Discussion Time

For Young Children

- Who are some people you can tell about Jesus?
- What does it mean to be kind like Jesus?
- Can you think of a time you helped someone feel loved?

For Teenagers

- What does “The world is my parish” mean to you personally?
- Have you ever felt nervous about sharing your faith? What helped you?
- How can you live out your faith at school or online in a way that reflects Jesus?

Activity: “Faith in Action Challenge”

- Each person must write down one way they will live out their faith this week, whether it’s inviting a friend to youth group, helping someone in need, or posting a verse online.
- Each person to share their plan with the group and check in next week on how it.

Close in Prayer