



A Disciple's Heart

Growing in Love and Grace

Walking the Way of Salvation

A Disciple's Heart: **Session 3 Objectives**

1. To explore Wesleyan understandings of salvation and grace.
2. To reflect on the meaning of the sacraments.



OPENING PRAYER

*Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits thou hast given me,
for all the pains and insults thou hast borne for me.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know thee more clearly,
love thee more dearly,
and follow thee more nearly, day by day.*

—St. Richard of Chichester (1197–1253)



BIBLICAL FOUNDATION

At one time you were like a dead person because of the things you did wrong and your offenses against God. You used to live like people of this world. You followed the rule of a destructive spiritual power. This is the spirit of disobedience to God's will that is now at work in persons whose lives are characterized by disobedience. At one time you were like those persons. All of you used to do whatever felt good and whatever you thought you wanted so that you were children headed for punishment just like everyone else.



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However, God is rich in mercy. He brought us to life with Christ while we were dead as a result of those things that we did wrong. He did this because of the great love that he has for us. You are saved by God's grace! And God raised us up and seated us in the heavens with Christ Jesus. God did this to show future generations the greatness of his grace by the goodness that God has shown us in Christ Jesus.

You are saved by God's grace because of your faith. This salvation is God's gift. It's not something you possessed. It's not something you did that you can be proud of.

—Ephesians 2:1-9 CEB



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CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICE

- Distribute the “Centering Prayer Session 3” handout and work through the exercise.



HOLY CLUB QUESTIONS

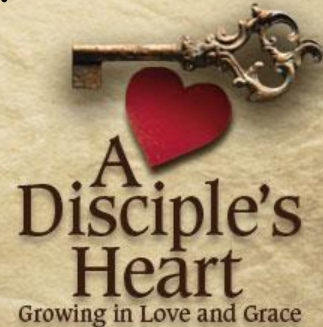
- In your table groups discuss the Holy Club questions.
- How might you let these questions inform your devotional time this week?



EXPLORATION

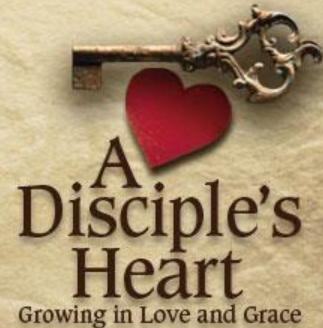
Key Points:

- The way of salvation can be thought of in three tenses: past, present, and future.
- Grace is the love of God at work within us to transform each of our lives into a unique expression of the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ.
- Wesley gave the Methodists a unique way of seeing salvation as the way of grace: Prevenient (preventing), Justifying (converting), Sanctifying.
- Baptism is a means of grace by which the Spirit of God is at work to give us a clean heart. Holy Communion is the continuing gift of grace by which we are drawn closer to Christ and experience his presence.



NEXT STEPS

- What are some of the ways in which you still struggle with sin?
- When was the last time you confessed a sin to another person?
- What next step can you take to identify or invite someone into this kind of accountability partner relationship?



LOOKING AHEAD

- The role of the Holy Spirit in the process of perfection



TAKE-HOME MESSAGE

What was your “take-home” message—the one thing that spoke most loudly or clearly from today’s session?



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