

Methodist 101: What makes us Methodists?

What is the Bible?

How do Methodists read the Bible?

Wesleyan Quadrilateral

Helpful Questions & Tools

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who is writing?• Where in the Bible?• Where in the book?• Who heard it first?• What kind of writing? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study Bibles• Bible Dictionaries• Bible Commentaries• Prayer |
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Discussion or Reflection Questions

- The Quadrilateral names four sources for theological reflection: Scripture, tradition, reason, and experience, with Scripture holding primary authority. Which of the four do you naturally lean on most when working through a hard question of faith? Which do you tend to overlook?
- Think of a time when your experience of God or of life seemed to challenge how you had understood a passage of Scripture. How did you work through it, and what did you learn?
- United Methodists generally read the Bible as authoritative and inspired without requiring a single, strictly literal approach. What do you gain, and what risks do you see, in reading Scripture with the help of historical context, literary form, and the church's long tradition?
- Wesley called himself "a man of one book" while also reading widely and valuing reason and the witness of the church. How can a person take the Bible seriously and remain open to learning from other voices?
- **Choose a familiar passage, such as the Good Samaritan or the Beatitudes, or a question about faith. How might each of the four sources shape the way you understand it and live it out?**

Quadrilateral Homework

- Scripture:
- Tradition:
- Reason:
- Experience:

Questions I Am Holding