

♡ EQUIPPING YOUNG IRISH METHODISTS IN EVERYDAY MISSION ♡



# INTRODUCTION

How can mission be part of my everyday life? Where can I learn from the stories of normal people living out their faith in the 21st Century? And what's different about doing all this as a Methodist? "All In" brings together these three elements of Mission, Methodism and Me for young Irish Methodists. You won't find another resource like it because it has been specifically written for young people who are members of or associated with the Methodist Church in Ireland (MCI), gleaned stories, expertise, ideas and passion from across MCI.

This resource seeks to help youth and young adults make 'mission as lifestyle' a reality. Not just giving them a confidence in God but also a confidence in themselves; that God desires their lives to have an impact in His name. Down-to-earth Irish Methodists of all generations share stories through written word and video of how God has called them through their abilities, passion and just common sense to serve him in their career, community and faraway countries. Activities, reflections and audiovisual material are designed to stimulate discussion and thought.

And all this comes with a wonderful thread running through it. The thread of a spirit-led, demanding and socially transforming tradition called Methodism. "All In" challenges us to revisit Methodism, the movement that changed British society, put justice and evangelism at the top of the agenda and planted churches around the world that now have 80 million members. Teaching videos and text bring the challenge of being a Methodist to life. The Irish Methodist Youth and Children's department has brought this pack together with contributions from the Methodist Missionary Society (Ireland), World Development & Relief and the Home Mission department, making this a truly Methodist Church in Ireland resource.

'All In' is designed for young people aged 11 to 18 years and is made up of 5 sessions each lasting roughly 1hr to 1hr 30minutes. Each session will have a similar format that focuses on God's Mission Our Mission: A people of Warm Hearts, Tough Hands and Wet feet.

The final session gives time for personal reflection around the Methodist Covenant Prayer which begins "I am no longer my own but yours". Our prayer is that those who take part in the sessions will decide that they want to be "All In".

## RESOURCES

All the resources you need to go alongside this programme are available at:

<https://goo.gl/ypQo2I>

Or alternatively you can scan this QR code:



WARM HEARTS



TOUGH HANDS



WET FEET



# DO ALL THE GOOD YOU CAN

SESSION 1



WARM HEARTS

WHAT IS MISSION? WHY DO MISSION?

## WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- ▷ List of 'would you rather statements'
- ▷ Creative box of art materials
- ▷ Paper
- ▷ Pens
- ▷ Flipchart
- ▷ Markers
- ▷ Bibles
- ▷ Computer
- ▷ Data projector
- ▷ Copies of reflection sheet

## INTRODUCTION

WOULD YOU RATHER...

Ask young people a series of questions that help them explore which they would prefer, such as:

- ▷ Coke or Pepsi
- ▷ Chocolate or Crisps
- ▷ Ant or Dec
- ▷ Summer or Winter
- ▷ Travel the world by Boat or by Train
- ▷ Speak fluent Japanese or Afrikaans
- ▷ Never be able to leave Ireland again or live somewhere else and never be able to come back to Ireland.

## WHAT IS MISSION?

TO START US OFF WE WANT YOU TO TELL US WHAT YOU THINK MISSION IS.



Get creative - Invite the young people in small groups to come up with a poster or sign explaining what mission means to them, using large pieces of paper/card, magazines and craft supplies. Take some feedback before playing the audio found in Google Drive folder: Session 1. "Mission is" Round up discussion and conversation before moving on highlighting that God has called us to mission and we must take that seriously as people who love Him.



## MISSION QUIZ

1. How many people are there in the world? **7.5 Billion people**
2. How many countries are there in the world? **196**
3. Which country has the most people in the world? **China (1.5 Billion)**
4. What percentage of the world has never heard about Jesus? **29%**
5. What is a missionary? **a person sent on a religious mission, especially one sent to promote Christianity in a foreign country.**
6. How many christian missionaries are there in the world? **400,000 (approx)**

WHAT WERE SOME OF JESUS LAST WORDS TO THE DISCIPLES IN MATTHEW 28?

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations ... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."



HAND OUT BIBLES AND LOOK UP THE FOLLOWING PASSAGES, GATHERING TOGETHER A VIEW OF WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT MISSION:

- ▷ Mark 16:15
- ▷ Acts 1:8
- ▷ Romans 10:13-15
- ▷ Acts 13:47
- ▷ Matthew 28:19-20
- ▷ Isaiah 6:8
- ▷ 1 Chronicles 16:24

Write on a flipchart key words that appear or stand out as you read.

(For a different idea, create your own quiz about countries and the world, using flags and capital countries as another way to develop the session).

## STATE OF THE WORLD

This video, produced by Global Frontier Missions, explains what the mission for Christians in world is like through statistics - play it and let the young people reflect on what the world is like today. What statistics stand out to them?



State of the World video  
Found in Google Drive  
Session 1

IN SMALL GROUPS



## TEACHING - METHODIST VALUE FOR MISSION



Read the following to your group, perhaps using powerpoint for some key lines.

### DO ALL THE GOOD - FOR BOTH BODY & SOUL

Jesus teaches us to love others as we love ourselves. This, at the very least, means that we will want others to enjoy the good things we have. And the best thing of all that we have, is that we know we are loved and accepted by God. Without this, people are empty and without purpose. So, we passionately want others to know the One who is changing our lives.

The Methodist vision is for all types of people to know Jesus as Lord & Saviour. Mission is like the overflow from a grateful heart. (Jesus promised: streams of living water flowing out to others. John 7: 38.) Mission is "One beggar telling another beggar where to find food."

When you think of it, our God is a "Missional" God! Jesus came on a mission from heaven to save us. And he then turns to us and sends us out on a similar quest: "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations ... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matt 28: 19 - 20.) In the Methodist Church we believe that we cannot be a real follower of Jesus without hearing this call to service. It becomes our joy to obey our Lord, and to reach out to others. Who knows, God may be calling you to cross the world to tell people about Jesus and his love?

Being missional is part of our Methodist DNA. When John Wesley opened his heart to the Lord back in 1738, he felt compelled to share the good news with others. Without Jesus as their Saviour, people were heading for a lost eternity.

A fire of love seemed to burn in him. As a result, there are over 70 million Methodists today. We believe that Jesus is our personal Saviour. However, while our faith is "personal", it can never be "private." We find that it is only as we give our faith away, that it truly becomes our own. Sadly, it seems to go cold very quickly when we hoard it. Someone has said that the Church is the only organisation which exists for those who don't go to it.

Many of the old Methodist hymns, which were sung with great conviction during the Evangelical Revival in the 18th Century, still reflect their passion. Imagine them singing and praying:

"I would the precious time  
redeem  
And longer live for this alone:  
To spend, and to be spent, for them  
Who have not yet my Saviour known;  
Fully on these my mission prove,  
And only breathe, to breathe  
thy love."

"Enlarge, inflame, and fill my heart  
With boundless charity divine:  
So shall I all my strength exert,  
And love them with a love like thine;  
And lead them to thy open side,  
The sheep for whom their  
Shepherd died."  
(H & P 767. Charles Wesley.)

Daily, we make a choice and dare to pray: "Lord, open my eyes to see opportunities for mission today: at home, at school, on the sports field, and over seas.

Rev. Ken Wilson

## TAKING IT FURTHER

Discussion questions for what we have just heard.

- If we passionately want to know the one who is changing our lives, we need to think about ways he has changed us... what are some specific things that knowing Jesus has done for you?
- Why do you think mission is described as "one beggar telling another beggar where to find food"?
- What is the command Jesus gives in Matthew 28:19-20? How can we do this on a daily basis?
- We find that it is only as we give our faith away, that it truly becomes our own. What do you think it means to give our faith away?



The Home Mission Department of the Methodist Church in Ireland has produced a video explaining how we are called to be missional, what it looks like and how it is God's mission that we join in on, not our mission (see Google Drive Session 1).


### [ MISSION QUOTES ]

Split the group into three and using materials provided, ask the young people to visually portray the following statements:

☞ It is not the church of God that has a mission in the world but the God of mission who has a church in the world. ☞

☞ The church is by nature missionary to the extent that, if it ceases to be missionary it has not just failed in one of its tasks it has ceased to be church. ☞

☞ Mission is about finding out what God is doing and joining in. ☞

 Do any of these quotes stand out to you as you think about mission? Think about your own Church - What does it do that you would describe as missional?

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT OR DISCUSSION

Try to draw out from the young people what their church is involved in (maybe provide a bulletin or list of activities that the church provides). Get them to think about what they would describe as missional and how it is missional.

### [ TEACHING VIDEO ]



PART 1 - DO ALL THE GOOD YOU CAN - Rev Julian Hamilton

Watch Jools video found in Session 1 Google Drive file. Group questions to follow on from video.

- How is Bangor Abbey a part of the story of how the Irish saved civilisation?
- What does the word mission/missionary mean?
- What does it mean for us all to be sent by God? If you were called to go, how do you think you'd feel?



### WET FEET

### [ INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION SHEET ]



Give the group time to complete this on their own and then allow time for discussion in pairs or small groups around their answers. If it is appropriate encourage the young people to pray about these things together.

### [ PRAYER ACTIVITY ]



PAPER AEROPLANES - give each person a page and ask them to write their name and something they would like prayer for, perhaps relating to the session.

Once written, spend a couple of minutes making a paper airplane and once everyone is ready let them fly them around the room - seeing who can throw it the furthest, throwing them at each other etc.

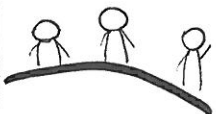
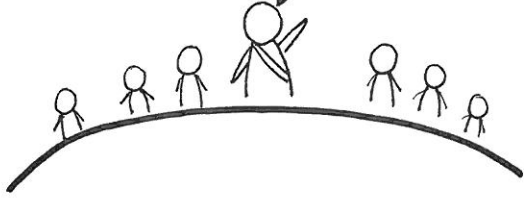
After a couple of minutes ask everyone to pick one up that isn't theirs and challenge them to pray for that person.

“ DO ALL THE GOOD YOU CAN ”

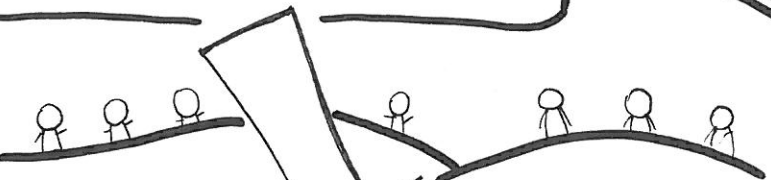
# Session ONE

“ THEREFORE, GO & MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS, BAPTISING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, SON & HOLY SPIRIT...”

mission is...



How can you make a Difference?



How is God asking the CHURCH to make a Difference?

Is God putting something on your HEART for OVERSEAS?



## SESSION 2

# BY ALL MEANS YOU CAN & IN ALL WAYS YOU CAN

DISCIPLESHIP

## WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Computer
- Data Projector
- Props for relay race
- Copies of Risk Poem
- Copies of reflection sheet
- Flipchart
- Markers
- Pens
- Bibles



WARM HEARTS

## [ INTRODUCTION ]

IF YOU WERE IN CHARGE FOR A DAY WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE? (Have some fun with this. Perhaps you could have asked some children in your church what they would do and share it with young people).



WATCH: *How to change the world according to Kid President*  
Session 2 Google Drive

## [ SONG AND REFLECTION ]



Play 'Waiting on the World to Change' by John Mayer.

Provide the lyrics to each participant or have a video of the song playing.  
(See Google Drive session 2)

The song's theme centres on the singer and his generation's inaction in regard to current world conditions. He believes there are things wrong in the world but that his generation does not have the power or the means to do anything to enact change. He also explains that it is not apathy that keeps his generation from acting, but the corruption among established leaders. He believes young people care but are unwilling to fight a losing battle. So their response is to wait for their turn. With all this, the song alludes to hope for the future, with the singer stressing that when his generation takes power, things will change.

- In what ways do you agree or disagree with the view of this song?
- Are young people "waiting on the world to change" today?
- If your generation "ruled the population" what changes do you think the world would see?



## [ TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERS ]



A transformational leader does not simply sit back and wait around for the world to change. A leader finds a way to "be the change." Now you may not be able to end world hunger or be a part of the government, but there are many things you can do now; if you commit to lead and serve now.

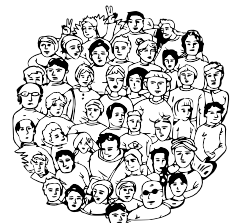


BE THE CHANGE  
YOU WANT TO SEE  
IN THE WORLD.

Mahatma Gandhi, Political and Spiritual Leader of India and the Indian Independence Movement

## CHANGE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Ask young people to take some time to think about people in their lives or communities who are 'making a difference or change'. Write their names in post-it notes and share with one another. Challenge young people to pray for them or if you have time now, write them a letter to encourage them and say thank you.





## TEACHING - METHODIST VALUE FOR DISCIPLESHIP



Read the following to your group, perhaps using powerpoint for some key lines.

### BY ALL THE MEANS / WAYS YOU CAN: DISCIPLESHIP

If my walk with God blows hot and cold all the time, I won't be a good example to others. And I will soon lose heart. You see, before I can be of much help to others, **I need, on a daily basis, to take care of my own relationship with the Lord.** We all need to find fresh ways to keep the fire burning within. We go to the source of the fire each day. The word "Methodist" was first of all used as an insult to sneer at the followers of John Wesley. "Look at them, they are so precise, they have to do everything to a set method!" And the name stuck, for they were indeed very methodical in their discipleship.

A disciple is a "learner." But from whom do we learn? Whose music do we dance to? Often people choose poor leaders, and learn bad habits. However, as followers of Jesus we hear him say to us, "Come follow me ... and I will make you fishers of men." (Matt 4: 19.) He is saying, "Watch how I do mission, and learn from me." This is why we read our Bibles. The Gospels are packed with stories of how Jesus taught his disciples. And right in the middle of all that, we find **that he taught them this crucial lesson: that even he needed to take time out to take care of his relationship with God the Father.** If Jesus needed so spend time with God, what about us? There is no other way to be successful disciples.

The first Methodists often did this in small groups, called Classes and Bands. When they sinned and let the Lord down, as we all do at times, they would encourage each other to start out again. They prayed for each other, and dared to believe that there were no limits to what God could do in and through them. This enabled them to live Christ-like lives. They began to dance like crazy to the Lord's music. They went out and changed the world.

You see, it is as we pray and read God's Word, that the Holy Spirit gives us the desire to learn more and more. Also, we discover a clearer focus and purpose in life. We gain strength and courage to reach out to others. It begins to dawn on us, "Yes, God can use even the likes of me!" So, don't write yourself off! It is so easy to concentrate on what we don't have, and what we can't do. We then begin to believe that God could never use the likes of us in his mission. However, the Bible teaches that God has a fantastic purpose for every one of us. Learn to listen to his music. Never forget what Jesus did with the little boy's lunch!

Christian disciples keep going back to the source of grace and power in their lives. The early Methodists encouraged each other as they sang hymns like this one:

O Thou who camest from above, the pure celestial fire to impart,  
Kindle a flame of sacred love on the mean altar of my heart.  
There let it for Thy glory burn with inextinguishable blaze;  
**And trembling to its source return,** in humble prayer and fervent praise.  
Jesus, confirm my heart's desire to work, and speak, and think for Thee;  
**Still let me guard the holy fire,** and still stir up Thy gift in me.  
(H & P. 745. Charles Wesley.)

Rev. Ken Wilson

## TAKING IT FURTHER

Discussion questions for what we have just heard.

- How is your relationship with God right now?
- Why is it important for us to spend time with God and focus on our relationship with him?
- What did Jesus do with the little boys lunch? (See John 6:1-13)

## UNFAIR RELAY RACE



Divide into equal teams. Set up a relay race. Have a moveable turning point like a chair or cone. Teams will race one member at a time around the turning point and back to the finish line.

The first team to have all their members complete the course is the winner. Play the game again, this time making one teams course simpler and another harder.



## DEBRIEF QUESTIONS

1. How did you feel about the first race?
2. What obstacles were placed in your way to keep you from succeeding?
3. How did you handle this?
4. How did you feel about the changes for the further races?
5. How did you respond to these additional obstacles?
6. How might this race relate to obstacles, challenges, and races in life?

## TEACHING VIDEO



### PART 2 - BY ALL THE MEANS AND IN ALL THE WAYS

- Rev Julian Hamilton

Watch Jools video found in Session 2 Google Drive file. Group questions to follow on from video.

- ▷ What happened in Moses story?
- ▷ What was in Moses hand and how did he use it?
- ▷ What are you bringing to God to offer as you serve him?



WET FEET

## STORIES THAT INSPIRE

Share a story or two of people using what God has given them to serve his people, from a video via the links below, or a written story - or get people you know to come and share their own story! Ask young people what stands out for them in these testimonials and encourage some discussion.

All of the following can be found in [Google Drive Session 2](#)



- ▷ **CONTAINER MINISTRY: MMS Video**  
Watch a brief video on the work of the container ministry of MCI, working to gather and send resources across the world.
- ▷ **LIMAVADY: Home Missions Video**  
Watch a brief video introducing Limavady Methodist, reaching out to their community in simple yet powerful ways
- ▷ **OPEN SCHOOLS WORLD WIDE: Alan McIlhenny**  
Called to serve vulnerable children by providing education.


During my year on Team on Mission, we went to the biggest high school in Ireland in Gorey, County Wexford, to take some of their religion classes. Throughout the week we talked to them about loads of stuff including God's forgiveness and our identity in him. We talked to lots of groups of students, but didn't have very many one to one conversations. Then, a couple of days into our week there, a 15 year old girl came to speak to us after class. She told us she was a Christian but the school didn't have an SU when she came so she decided to start one herself! She gathered some friends, asked a teacher if they could use their room and just started to meet. We were only there to take the classes but she invited us along to the room they met in at lunchtime. So we went. It was amazing, it wasn't provided for them, but they made it happen - a group of 6 or 7 high school students who met to talk about how God had been stirring their hearts that week. They read the Bible and prayed together - it was so encouraging and challenging to see them stepping out and going against the crowd. That school has over 1500 students and this small group were starting however they could to make a difference.

- Jenny Clarke, TOM 27

## [ RISK ]

We know that life is not easy, and often living for Jesus and standing up for what we believe in can be difficult. As we think about being people who are on mission, we know that there is a lot of risk involved. Ask young people to reflect on what they risk as they live their lives as Christians and complete the poem. After the young people have filled in their blanks and shared them with others, read them the complete poem to help them explore more what it means to risk.

 Outside my comfort zone, i learned to lean on god for strength instead of leaning on the small pleasures of this world for comfort. Outside my comfort zone, i found that i could serve god more fully and use all of my talents unreservedly for him.. 

 ALYSSA CHUA, 17-YEAR-OLD FROM THE PHILIPPINES, QUOTED IN THE BOOK 'DO HARD THINGS'



To laugh is to risk...  
 To weep is to risk...  
 To reach for another is to risk...  
 To expose your feelings is to risk...  
 To place your ideas, your dreams before a crowd is to risk...  
 To love is to risk...  
 To live is to risk...  
 To believe is to risk...  
 To try is to risk...  
 But risks must be taken, because the greatest hazard in life is to risk...  
 The person who risks nothing...  
 They may avoid suffering and sorrow, but they cannot...  
 Chained by their attitudes they are slaves; they have forfeited their freedom.  
 Only a person who risks...

Based on the poem by William Arthur Ward

To laugh is to risk appearing the fool.  
 To weep is to risk appearing sentimental.  
 To reach for another is to risk involvement.  
 To expose your feelings is to risk exposing your true self.  
 To place your ideas, your dreams before a crowd is to risk their loss.  
 To love is to risk not being loved in return.  
 To live is to risk dying.  
 To believe is to risk despair.  
 To try is to risk failure.  
 But risks must be taken, because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing.  
 The person who risks nothing does nothing, has nothing, is nothing.  
 They may avoid suffering and sorrow, but they cannot learn,  
 feel, change, grow, love, live.  
 Chained by their attitudes they are slaves; they have forfeited their freedom.  
 Only a person who risks is free.

## [ INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION SHEET ]



Give the group time to complete this on their own and then allow time for discussion in pairs or small groups around their answers. If it is appropriate encourage the young people to pray about these things together.

## [ PRAYER ACTIVITY ]



### PRAYING OUT LOUD AT THE SAME TIME

This may be new or a bit different for your group, but it is good to all pray together and not have the pressure of everyone listening to them individually - encourage them to pray thanks to God for the gifts, talents and abilities he has given them to serve him.

BY ALL MEANS  
YOU CAN  
& IN ALL WAYS  
YOU CAN

Session  
TWO

"be  
Faithful

in the small  
things"



How can you improve on doing the small things  
at home, school & church?

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What are some specific small things  
you could start?


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What things are you already doing  
that you could give more focus,  
time or energy to?



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DREAMS  
FOR  
THE  
FUTURE

What could you do in the future to serve  
& love others?

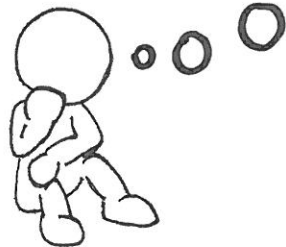
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"Be the  
change  
you want  
to see in the  
world"





# IN ALL THE TIMES YOU CAN

THE CALL TO REACH OUT

## WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- ▷ Copies of People Bingo
- ▷ Pens
- ▷ Party Poppers
- ▷ Bibles
- ▷ Flipchart
- ▷ Markers
- ▷ Computer
- ▷ Data projector
- ▷ Paper
- ▷ Copies of reflection sheet
- ▷ Post-it notes



WARM HEARTS

## [ INTRODUCTION ]

### PEOPLE BINGO

Using the People Bingo sheet (found in Google Drive Session 3), ask young people to move around the room and get someone to sign a square that is true for them. When they have finished or there is a winner, ask the young people to look at their pages and spend a short time finding out a little more about individuals in your group. Perhaps there are things about your young people that they are good at that you didn't know. Highlight that we are all different and that God has made us that way.

Perhaps use these questions to draw out more discussion:

- ▷ What are you good at?
- ▷ What brings you joy/ makes you smile?
- ▷ Whats important to you?

## [ CELEBRATE THE SMALL THINGS ]

HAND OUT PARTY POPPERS TO THE GROUP



Invite them to think about something they have done for others over the past week, perhaps in relation to something they are good at. These can be really small things or big things - Shopping for their granny, giving someone their seat on the bus or playing an instrument in church. Celebrate each story by popping the party popper!

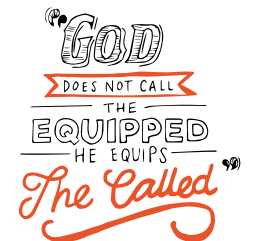
## [ WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY? ]



HAVE SOME DISCUSSION ABOUT THE FOLLOWING :

### What type of people does God call?

God calls all sorts of people to serve him, but we encourage you to emphasise that God calls and uses the weak and those who may feel insignificant. "God doesn't call the equipped; he equips the people he calls."



### Who and what do you know about people in the Bible that God called?

See what the young people and different groups know about various bible stories and how God used the characters in the bible. If God can use these people He can certainly use you and me. This list of characters and some of their failings/ limitations might be useful in expressing how God uses anyone.

- ▷ Noah was a drunk
- ▷ Abraham was too old
- ▷ Isaac was a daydreamer
- ▷ Jacob was a liar
- ▷ Joseph was abused
- ▷ Moses had a stuttering problem
- ▷ Gideon was afraid
- ▷ Rahab was a prostitute
- ▷ Jeremiah was too young
- ▷ David was an adulterer (not to mention a murderer)
- ▷ Elijah was suicidal
- ▷ Jonah ran from God
- ▷ Naomi was a widow
- ▷ Job went bankrupt
- ▷ Peter denied Christ
- ▷ All the disciples fell asleep while praying (and ran away when Jesus really needed them.)
- ▷ Martha worried about everything
- ▷ The Samaritan woman was divorced (more than once)
- ▷ Paul was a Christian-killer
- ▷ Oh, and Lazarus was dead at one point.

### How did God call them?

Again, see what the young people know of these stories. Conclude that God called people in lots of different ways, but more often than not he promised them that he would be with them as he called them.



### Do you know anyone who has been called by God today?

It would be helpful to have examples here of people God has called and those who have responded to this call - share your own story of this, or ask another leader or church member to come and share this. The point is God calls us all in different ways, no matter who we are God wants us to live our lives for him and to serve him.



## TEACHING - METHODIST VALUE FOR CALLING



Read the following to your group, perhaps using powerpoint for some key lines.

### THE STORY OF JOHN WESLEY'S CALL TO REACH OUT TO OTHERS

When he was a child John Wesley was once trapped in a burning house. His Dad thought he had died. But he was snatched to safety at the last minute. His mother convinced him that he had been "snatched as a brand from the burning" (Amos 4: 11) to do a very special work for God. Later, following in their father's footsteps, John and his brother Charles went to train to be Anglican ministers. From his earliest days he felt that he must serve God.

They were very serious students, and met with others to study and pray. They gave money to the poor and visited people in prison. Others called them the "Holy Club", and branded them "Methodists!" They even set off as missionaries to America, to work among the Red Indians. This was not a great success, and they returned home quite depressed. Wesley was trying hard to serve God, but in his own strength.

Strange as it may seem, they did not yet know Jesus in a personal way as Lord and Saviour. They had no real inner assurance that God had forgiven and accepted them. They tried hard to live good Christian lives, but in the end, they never felt they were good enough. They did not have the joy and peace that Jesus had promised. There must be more than this!

Back in London, John went to a Moravian 'small group' in Aldersgate St. (The Moravians were red-hot Christians from Germany) Here the penny dropped. He wrote: "I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ and Christ alone for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death." He was now sure of God's love. This changed him in so many ways.

God's call on his life became clear. This was why he had been saved from the burning house. And, it was as he prayed and studied the Bible with others, that he sensed that God was giving him a new heart for mission - he couldn't keep the good news to himself. God the Holy Spirit was empowering him for a remarkable life of service.

The main churches had become cold and formal. Moral standards were very low, even among the church leaders. God's Name was laughed at. Few people went to church. Someone had to call the church back to its roots! Someone had to show people how wonderful the Christian life could be! Someone had to stand up for truth and purity!

That 'someone' turned out to be John Wesley! He and his brother Charles, and his growing band of followers, did indeed transform the churches in England and Ireland, and across the world. Nothing could stop them. When the churches shut them out, they held services in the open air. When there weren't enough ministers to preach, John began to train men and women to be Local Preachers. When they couldn't get enough books for study and training, he produced a 'library' of 50 books. When the old hymns became unsuitable, Charles wrote more than 5,000 new hymns. It was known as the **Great Evangelical Revival**.

One of their favourite hymns speaks of this call:

A charge to keep I have: a God to glorify;  
A never-dying soul to save, and fit it for the sky.  
To serve the present age, my calling to fulfil; -  
O may it all my powers engage to do my Master's will.  
(H & P 785. Charles Wesley.)

Rev. Ken Wilson

## TAKING IT FURTHER

Discussion questions for what we have just heard.

- ▷ Can you re-call a time when you felt Jesus presence in your life?
- ▷ What is God calling or asking you to do at the moment? Are you doing it?

## CALLING IN THE EVERYDAY



### GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Kerry Waugh

'In the beginning God created...' You don't have to go very far into the bible to work out our God is a bit of a creative whiz... it's right there in the first line of Genesis (which bodes well for those of us who aren't the best at reading).

I'm Kerry, the youngest of four with 3 actual geniuses for siblings. I don't know when it became obvious to my mum that I didn't read at quite the same level as my Cambridge-educated family but I remember asking God what my path was... because it wasn't the same as theirs. Creativity has always been my friend. In school I would happily sit in the art department for hours on end drawing, painting, sketching... looking back I know it was God building me and preparing me for a life in this environment. After attending Art College and getting my degree in Graphic Design and diploma in Business - I started The White Letter, a wedding stationery company.

Being able to be creative everyday, welcome clients into my home and talk 'life' with brides & grooms gives me purpose. I am so thankful that my gifts didn't go to waste and that God made me brave enough to go out on my own back in 2012. The White Letter keeps going from strength to strength and I know it's down to the joy God gives me for my work everyday.

Colossians 3:23 (TLB - I love this translation) Work hard and cheerfully at all you do, just as though you were working for the Lord and not merely for your masters.



### FIREMAN

Adam Lyner



I work as a fire fighter and believe that God calls me to serve him in this way! There are two main places that I can think of in particular; The first is when I am called out to end emergency, wether that is a house fire and I have to head in to look for people or an road traffic collision that someone is trapped! I am guilty of praying what I call 999 prayers on the way to serious calls asking for strength and that I would be used to help anyone that needs it! I am both a professionally trained firefighter and a follower of Christ, this means I do my job well and look to see how God can use me in these brief, often traumatic points in people lives.

The second and probably the most challenging is in the fire station! Working in a male dominated, secular environment can possess its own challenges! I love and trust the people I work with, so there is a big desire to fit in with them and their humour! The guys know that I am a Christian and I believe that the way I conduct myself is very important! I am called to pray for these guys and to be there for them if they ever need! I am called to be part of the team, while not taking part in some activities or jokes!

I love my job ad the opportunities it gives me to serve God and other people! I don't know what challenges will face me when I go in to work but I know that God is my strength and my protection!

 MMS MISSION PARTNERS  
Pat Jamison



Methodist Faith Healing Hospital, Ankaase, Ghana.

To a certain extent, I don't feel I have a normal working day. When I was a mission partner in Bangladesh, I would have told people about Eid's parties I was at, or a wedding... and one man said to me, "I'd love to hear more about your work"; and I said, "Well actually this is my work! Being a mission partner is not about going and working in Ankaase Hospital, it's about walking through the community and meeting people at church. It's a 24/7 thing, you're not a mission partner 9-5 Monday to Friday and then the rest of the time I'm just 'me'. You're a mission partner all the time & all of the time you're mixing and making relationships it's being a mission partner. So it's not a 'job'.

 MINISTER  
Michael Spence



God calls me to help people to follow Jesus and to equip them to do the things God is calling them to. This has led me to be a minister in the Methodist Church in Ireland.

I spend my time preparing talks for Sunday worship, working with the leaders of different teams like prayer, music and youth ministry, listening to people talk about their lives and helping people see where God is at work. Sometimes the meetings and paperwork can feel like a distraction, but even that is work towards helping God's people be what God has called them to be.

## [ DIFFERENT SEASONS ]

### Calling in the everyday continued

The following can be found in Google Drive Session 3 You may also find this video useful to share at this point, of someone working for a church but sensing their calling being where they live and with their neighbours. Home Missions video - Keeva Watson.

You may find it helpful to explain to your young people that call can change as we grow older and go through different seasons. We have provided a few stories in Google Drive session 3 of people who's lives and callings changed through different seasons in life.

- ▷ Albert Wakili - Video of Albert taking about working in Blanchardstown with the Methodist Church
- ▷ Testimonials from Alison Gallagher, Pamela Algie and Ruth Matthews

## [ TEACHING VIDEO ]



PART 3 -  
IN ALL THE TIMES -  
Rev Julian Hamilton



Watch Jools video found in Session 3 Google Drive file. Group questions to follow on from video.

- ▷ What happened in this story of Samuel that we're told about?
- ▷ How can we begin to work out the call of God?
- ▷ Where are you listening to God? When are you close to where God is?



## YOUR CALL

We love the quote in Pete Greig's book, "the Vision and the vow", about our call. Read it to your young people and let them think about what it means for them. You could print versions of it and let the young people read over it and highlight the parts of it that stand out to them.

 Your call is to be a worship leader but not necessarily with a guitar in your hand. Your call is to befriend that funny little lady at the end of your street. Your call is to feed the hungry and to spend yourself on behalf of the poor and to offer hospitality to strangers who turn up in town needing a place to crash. And it is to fast. And it's to pray so long and hard that you run out of words and tears. Your call is to preach the good news of Jesus to every person who will listen and a few who won't. Your call is to go somewhere, anywhere, where ever, whenever, for Jesus, and never stop. Your call is to love people no one else loves and to forgive them when they treat you like dirt-or worse. Do your job to the very best of your ability without grumbling about your boss or whining about your colleagues. Your call is to pray for the sick, and when they are healed, to dance all night. And when they aren't, to weep with them and love them even more. Your call is to honour your parents, pray for your leaders, study the Scriptures, and attend plenty of parties. Be a peacemaker in every situation: when the fight breaks out on the bus home late at night and when the gossip starts to circulate at church. Your call is to pick up litter in the street when no one else is looking, to wipe the toilet seat, to pull the gum off from under the desk. It's to get to meetings early to put out the chairs. Your call is to make disciples and to teach them to obey everything Jesus commanded. And don't forget to minister grace to them when they sin. Which they will. Your mission is to baptise and to cast out evil spirits. Your call is to bind up broken hearts wherever you find them, and you will find them wherever you look. It's to visit prisons. And hospitals. Your call is to listen more than you talk and to listen with your eyes as well as your ears. It's to do the chores again and again without grumbling. It's to buy ethical coffee and to recycle your bottles. And while you're at it, don't forget to leave anonymous gifts on peoples doorsteps. And when you've done all that come back and see me, and we can spend a little time praying about Phase Two! 

## INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION SHEET



Give the group time to complete this on their own and then allow time for discussion in pairs or small groups around their answers. If it is appropriate encourage the young people to pray about these things together.

## PRAYER ACTIVITY

### PRAYER WALL

Dedicate a wall or a part of a wall for the session to be a prayer wall - something that the youth group can focus on and stick up prayers on that they can write on post-its. This could be something you keep up for the following weeks, and add to or develop different themes around. When they've added something to the wall encourage them to read and pray for other peoples prayers too.



Take some time with your young people to help them work out their calling by thinking about who God calls them to and what he has put on their hearts.

Ask them to think about some of these questions:

- What excites you?
- What would you do for God if you knew you couldn't fail?
- Who are the people you most want to help?
- Is there a particular group or type of people you care about?
- What are the top two needs you love to help people with?
- What cause or issue are you most passionate about?
- Where could you make the greatest impact for God?



**IN ALL THE  
TIMES  
YOU CAN**

**Session  
THREE**

MY CALL IS...

MY HEART IS FOR...

**GOD**  
DOES NOT CALL  
THE  
**EQUIPPED**  
HE EQUIPS  
*The Called*

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU COULD GIVE UP TO GIVE MORE TIME TO SERVE GOD?



# ALL OF THE PEOPLE YOU CAN

GO!



WARM HEARTS

## WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- ▷ Introduction game
- ▷ Computer
- ▷ Data projector
- ▷ Bibles
- ▷ Creative supplies
- ▷ Paper/Card
- ▷ Copies of reflection sheet
- ▷ Pens
- ▷ Monopoly money
- ▷ Strips of card for prayer chain
- ▷ Stapler

## INTRODUCTION

Divide your group into small groups of no more than 6 people. As a group, they must decide who deserves the most money and separate it accordingly. There are 3 rounds. After each round ask the group to justify their choices. (Google Drive Session 3 has this activity ready to print and cut. Colours correspond to a person for each round ie. Red is person one)

### BRIEFING:

There has been a natural disaster affecting many parts of the world. You work for a relief agency who have some money at their disposal in order to help people who are most in need. Together you must decide which person deserves the most money and why.

### ROUND 1:

- Person 1 - 14 year old girl
- Person 2 - 60 year old man
- Person 3 - 83 year old lady
- Person 4 - 4 year old boy
- Person 5 - 26 year old man
- Person 6 - 39 year old female

### ROUND 2:

- Person 1 - She is from South Africa and has never been to school
- Person 2 - This man runs a successful ICT business
- Person 3 - 83 yr old is a grandmother from England
- Person 4 - Little 4 yr old boy has just been adopted and started school
- Person 5 - He is a university graduate
- Person 6 - 39 yr old single mother and full time teacher

### ROUND 3:

- Person 1 - At the age of 14 she has been a carer for her two younger brothers for 3 years and dreams of becoming a nurse
- Person 2 - His business became more important than his family resulting in divorce and he was investigated for fraud
- Person 3 - This grandmother lost her husband at a young age and ever since she has been running marathons in his name to raise money
- Person 4 - This little boy was born with learning difficulties and will need a lot of support and help as he grows up
- Person 5 - Although he graduated from university with an engineering degree, he really just wants to play rugby for Ireland some day
- Person 6 - As a single mother and full time teacher, she finds it hard to maintain friendships and is often exhausted after long days

### ROUND UP:

There are many people in our world who don't have what we do and so often people are treated unfairly. We have a responsibility to help those around us and those far from us.



## FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT THE WORLD

Global Issue - if the world was 100 people (Google Drive Session 4)  
Unreached People Group (Dropbox Session 4)



## [ TEACHING - CALL TO ALL PEOPLE ]



Read the following to your group, perhaps using powerpoint for some key lines.

### GO TO ALL THE PEOPLE YOU CAN.

Wesley was shocked when he found that many Christians ignored the poor. They refused to accept that God loves everyone - only the select few! As a result, they had no compassion for those outside the church. People who were down-and-out, or in prison, must be outside God's love. Don't waste your time on them!

However, God had given Wesley great compassion for the poor and marginalised. He saw in the Bible that Jesus reached out to everyone. This means that no one is to be excluded. And this message was indeed, good news for the poor in Wesley's day.

There were many reasons for the poverty and drunkenness that existed. The main reason was that the Industrial Revolution was just kicking in, and to get work, thousands flocked from the countryside to the new shanty-towns which had sprung up around the coal mines and the new factories. They became nameless people, living like animals. The main churches had fallen asleep. No one seemed to care.

To the Methodists, this was not right. For each one was made in the image of God. They too had a right to hear of God's offer of mercy and salvation. So, Wesley broke with tradition and began preaching in the open air to vast crowds of coal miners at 5.00am before they went to work. He also arranged for food and clothing for those in the greatest need. "Don't go to those who need you" he would say, "Go to those who need you most!" Many leaders in the main churches were very critical of this work. However, many thousands

became Christians, and Charles Wesley got them singing hymns that taught them more about their new-found faith. What about the needy today? Refugees; single mothers; the "slaves" who are being trafficked? God seems to bless those who go where others don't. And there are many examples from the past, of the Methodists themselves being blessed as a result of reaching out. E.G. Protestants were being persecuted in France and many refugees fled to the West of Ireland for safety.

These "Huguenots" heard Wesley preach to them in French (he could speak several languages) and many became Methodists. Years later some of them emigrated from Ireland to America, and helped to start the Methodist Church there. We ourselves are blessed when we reach out to those on the margins.

What we believe as Methodists is often referred to as "The 4 alls of Methodism": All need to be saved; all may be saved; all may know themselves saved; and all may be saved to the uttermost. Also, the hymns show that the message is for the least, the last & the lost:

"Outcasts of men, to you I call,  
Harlots, and publicans, and thieves!  
He spreads his arms to embrace  
you all;  
Sinners, alone His grace receives:  
No need of Him the righteous have;  
He came the lost to seek and  
save."  
(H & P. 706. Charles Wesley.)

We need to ask the Lord to give us eyes to see, and hearts to love, those who feel that no one cares for them.,  
Rev. Ken Wilson

## [ TAKING IT FURTHER ]

Discussion questions for what we have just heard.

- Where is God asking you to 'go'?
- What is holding you back?

## [ THE GOOD SAMARITAN ]

Read together or in small groups the story of "The good samaritan" found in Luke 10:25-37. Ask the young people to creatively retell the story, perhaps what it might look like today. They could draw or do a drama. As they do this encourage them to think about what Jesus is trying to teach us and how should we respond to everyone regardless of who they are or where they are from. As Paul writes in 1st Corinthians 12:13 "Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit." In God's eyes we are all equal - he came to save us all.

## [ TEACHING VIDEO ]

- ▶ PART 4  
ALL THE PEOPLE YOU CAN  
Rev Julian Hamilton

- Watch Jools video found in Session 4 Google Drive file. Group questions to follow on from video.
- What happened when Jesus returned to his home town to preach?
  - Why do you think the people might have been offended by the stories he shared?
  - For you, who would "us" and "them" refer to?



## STORIES TO INSPIRE

Watch or read the following stories of how people in our communities have heard God's call to 'go' and been obedient. (Videos can be found in Google Drive Session 4)

24-7 West Belfast - Video - Laura Brown

### GRAPHIC TALLAGH

Katherine Kehoe

'An Solas' The Methodist church in Tallagh is a purpose built building erected to serve the local community. It is situated in the heart of an area on the Fortunestown Road in Jobstown. This area is also home to An Cosan and a Medical Centre. The team at An Cosan provide education, social and parenting skills and other help to socially deprived girls and ladies in the immediate area. Jobstown is a very socially deprived area where antisocial behaviour and crime are rampant. Unemployment is the norm.

Drugs are freely available and low self esteem amongst residents is very common. Tallagh as an area in Dublin is working hard to overcome its heritage as a rundown commuter town. The congregation at An Solas wish to live up to its name by being a beacon of hope and light shining into the darkness around it.

"Be doers of the word and not hearers only." The congregation strives to live out these words of James 1:22 as a Christ centred, multi ethnic congregation who believe that the Christian faith is to be lived out in world and action. We do this in a number of ways through programmes such as 'Peace and Coffee'. This is a place for the local community to come and share a cup of tea/ coffee and chat. We share Christ in a practical way as well as having the opportunity to pray with those who are hurting to lonely. 'God's Storehouse' is another way that we practically serve our community. When the recession hit our country working class areas around Tallagh were very badly affected. Members of the congregation became aware of a great need in the community. They began to collect donations of non perishable food from local merchants and groups like Food Cloud to personally

deliver to those in need in the area. Those receiving the food donations are also given a written Scripture verse about the love of God. It is all done by word of mouth and priority is given to the old and house bound especially those who do not have family members close by. Children Evangelism Ireland also use our building at Tallagh each Monday evening where up to two dozen mostly 'unchurched' children from around the area learn about our loving God. It is my fervent wish that the congregation at Tallagh might find other ways to reach the community. With this in mind I have joined with the other Christian leaders in the community in leading an Alpha course currently taking place at An Solas. Numbers attending Alpha have been growing each week and members at An Solas have served the community by opening the building, welcoming those arriving and helping to serve tea and coffee. I see my role at Tallagh as making disciples/ leaders who in turn will become disciples/leaders in their church and local community. The way we do church is changing. No longer will the community come to the church building, the church members, the body of Christ have to go out into the community.

For further discussion if you wish:

- What strikes you about these stories of people and their callings to certain places?
- Thinking back to the last session and that sense of call that we can have, is there any people groups or places that you have a significant heart for?

## INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION SHEET



Give the group time to complete this on their own and then allow time for discussion in pairs or small groups around their answers. If it is appropriate encourage the young people to pray about these things together.

## PRAYER ACTIVITY




### PRAYER CHAINS

All you need are strips of card, pens and a stapler. Encourage the young people to write the names of people, groups or places onto their strip of card that they want to pray for from this session (they can of course have more than one). Once these are written, go round in a circle and have each person read their prayer (if they are not comfortable saying it out loud they can say it into themselves) - once it is read they staple it to the previous one - finish with a chain that you can hang up somewhere, and say a closing prayer.

# ALL OF THE PEOPLE YOU CAN

Session  
FOUR

What struck you from today's session?



GO to those  
Who NEED you  
most!



# AS LONG AS EVER YOU CAN

COVENANT



WARM HEARTS

## WHAT YOU'LL NEED

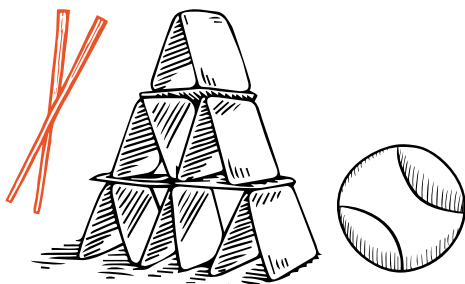
- ▷ Copies Materials or equipment for challenges
- ▷ Bibles
- ▷ Computer
- ▷ Data projector
- ▷ Pens
- ▷ Paper
- ▷ Copies of Covenant Prayer
- ▷ Creative supplies
- ▷ Copies of relection sheet

## [ INTRODUCTION ]

Create some difficult challenges around the room for different people to do when they arrive - have enough for the whole group, or ask for volunteers and get the rest of the group to observe, time them and cheer them on.

Some examples could be:

- ▷ Build a tower of cards
- ▷ Make the biggest elastic band ball you can
- ▷ Stand against a wall in a squat position for as long as you can
- ▷ Use chopsticks to move small sweets or rice from one bowl to another
- ▷ Balance a tennis ball on the round edge of a tennis racket
- ▷ Move tic tac's from one cup to another using tweezers or chop sticks



Discuss with the group how there are some tasks in life which take time and effort, but they can be worth it if we stick with it and keep on going. Ask the group what they think it means to persevere.



## [ BIBLE REFLECTION ]



READ 2ND TIMOTHY 4:7 AND DISCUSS AS A GROUP OR IN SMALL GROUPS.

- ▷ What do you think it means to fight the good fight, finish the race and remain faithful?
- ▷ How can you do this today?

READ HEBREWS 12:1-2



Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honour beside God's throne. 🙌

- ▷ What does this passage tell us about how we can keep on going?



# TEACHING - METHODIST VALUE AROUND THE COVENANT PRAYER

 Read the following to your group, perhaps using powerpoint for some key lines.

## DO GOOD - FOR AS LONG AS EVER YOU CAN.

Many people start the Christian pilgrimage well. At first they have great enthusiasm. Why then do so few seem to finish well. We grow weary, and run out of steam. You see, if "doing good" is nothing more than a nice idea, and not a full-blooded commitment for life, then we'll soon throw in the towel. We need to take it on the chin: serving Jesus is demanding and challenging, and will cost us everything. Jesus calls us to say "yes" to him and to say "no" to self. He calls us to take up our cross and follow. (Matt 16: 24.) It may cost us the price of a "safe" job, or a special relationship - as the other person may be unwilling to buy into this alternative life style.

So, what are our true motives for following Jesus? Why do I do what I do? Why am I a Methodist? Whose music do I dance to?

- You see, if it is just to please others, then I'll quit when people laugh at me or when things get difficult.
- If my motive in life is just to have a good time, then I'll often find parts of church very boring.
- If it is just to be entertained, then I'll hop from one church to the next.
- But if it's to dance to the glory of God, and follow his rhythm, then I'll continue to do good for as long as ever I can.

These discussion papers have pointed to a specific Methodist ethos that influences all our service. And, of course, what we have said here could relate to Christians from other churches. All Christians want to follow Jesus, and to reach out to the lost.

However, in the "Covenant Prayer" we have a very specific Methodist thing to inspire us. As a young Christian I fell in love with this prayer. It seemed that in this prayer, our Church was making higher demands on me than any other church. Here was Christianity at a 100 MPH! Here was a call to deny myself and make Jesus LORD of my life. Here was a total, costly, demanding, counter-cultural, but oh so beautiful life worth living. Only God has the right to ask for this type of full commitment. No one else, and nothing else, is worthy of our total offering:

I am no longer my own but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you; let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.

They sang:

"The covenant we this moment make,  
be ever kept in mind:  
We will no more our God forsake,  
nor cast his words behind.  
We never will throw off his fear  
Who hears our solemn vow;  
And if thou art well pleased to hear,  
come down and meet us now."

May I challenge you to loiter around this prayer for the next few weeks until it becomes part of you. We know that God, in his love for us, has given us all of himself. Can we then refuse to give all of ourselves in return?

Rev. Ken Wilson



## 【 TAKING IT FURTHER 】

Discussion questions for what we have just heard.

Discussion questions for what we have just heard.

- ▷ What does it mean when Jesus says 'take up your cross and follow'?
- ▷ What might it look like for you to 'dance to the glory of God, and follow his rhythm'?

## 【 TEACHING VIDEO 】



PART 5 -  
AS LONG AS EVER YOU CAN  
Rev Julian Hamilton

Watch Jools video found in Session 5 Google Drive file. Group questions to follow on from video.

- ▷ What would it look like to live a life that really made a difference?
- ▷ What does it mean to act justly?
- ▷ What does it mean to love mercy?

## 【 COVENANT PRAYER 】



### WATCH: COVENANT PRAYER VIDEO

Found in Session 5 Google Drive file, showing a modern explanation of the words we say and what they might look like for us today from Play it by Ear - So be it.

Print and hand out copies for them to read through and highlight:

I am no longer my own but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you; let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing;

I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.



### GET CREATIVE,

encourage the young people to make their own poster of significant phrases from the prayer for each of them to take home and keep.





### 【 MYANMAR CUP OF RICE STORY 】

In the rich west, we often respond to need and struggle and take part in outreach in grand one-off ways. If there is an earthquake, then we dig a little deeper than normal and give to an appeal. If a friend is down due to a family bereavement, we may pray more for them and spend more time with them than normal. For us, 'mission' can often be seen as events that need to be organized and funded and for which we put 'normal life' on hold for a while.

Jesus however, did not teach any of this. Jesus taught about living a Christian lifestyle that was missional. A lifestyle that is consistent and steady. A lifestyle that considers and responds to poverty and hardship on a daily basis and not just in one-off situations. A lifestyle that does not need to be organized in order to explain the gospel through words and deeds. This slow, steady and consistent lifestyle of mission is what God looks for.

Myanmar (Burma) is a country that has known great hardship and struggle in the past 50 years or so. It was

practically cut off from the rest of the world under a series of socialist or military governments. Under those regimes missionaries were thrown out and the fledgling churches had to survive and grow on their own. The Methodist Church (Upper Myanmar) was one of the Christian churches that had to do this.

The Methodists in Myanmar have a practice that speaks of the steady and consistent lifestyle of showing God's love. It is not flashy and happens on a daily basis in Methodist homes all over the country. The practice is called 'san ta soke' or 'palm full of rice'. Every time the woman in the house cooks a meal, she sets aside a handful of rice. A handful may not seem like much but the days become weeks and the weeks become months. She will then give her bag of rice to the church and the church will sell it. The money is then used for evangelism in the Buddhist or animist communities or given to the materially poor to help them. It is a daily commitment by the family to love God by loving others and, although it may not seem like much to us, it is at



a cost to these Christian families who are not necessarily well-off themselves.

The lifestyle God's wants is missional, consistent and self-sacrificing.

Remember the line of the Covenant Prayer: I am no longer my own but yours...

### 【 INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION SHEET 】



Give the group time to complete this on their own and then allow time for discussion in pairs or small groups around their answers. If it is appropriate encourage the young people to pray about these things together.

### 【 PRAYER ACTIVITY 】



**PRAYING FOR EACH OTHER**  
Encourage everyone to pray for each other in small groups. Provide ideas of how to pray for each other, and encourage accountability - tell a friend what they've committed to and get them to ask them if they're doing what they've said they'll do!






# TRAINING

LEANNE HILL  
TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

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 **Methodist World  
Development & Relief**  
PARTNERS IN CHANGE