

Holiness—The Wesleys

ACTIVITY	MINUTES	GRADE LEVEL	FOCUS	PITstops	*OTHER SUPPLIES
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPENING ACTIVITY Transportation	5	1-6	 		"William Tell Overture" CD/Media player
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LESSON Holiness—The Wesleys	10	1-6	 	 A-D	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MEMORY VERSE	5	1-6	 	 E	large paper bag, gardening glove, music CD, CD/Media player
REINFORCEMENT ACTIVITY (Choose One Option)					
<input type="checkbox"/> OPTION 1 Create A Crest	10	1-6		 F	craft supplies
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPTION 2 Song Of Blessing	5	1-6	 		CD/Media player
<input type="checkbox"/> WORSHIP PROGRAM To Be Like Him	10	1-6			
<input type="checkbox"/> LET'S DO IT! (LDI)					
John Wesley	5	1-2			
Mathematical Message		3-4			
John Wesley	5	5-6			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DIALOGUE FOLDER					
iSPEAK	5	1-2			
iSPEAK	5	3-4			
iSPEAK	5	5-6			

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOME
 This lesson will introduce junior soldiers to John Wesley, the father of Methodism. They'll learn about how The Salvation Army comes from the holiness tradition.

YOU ARE HERE!



Place the timeline marker on **1703** on the **New Testament** timeline.

*In addition to materials listed in this chart, you need Basic Classroom Supplies.

Holiness—The Wesleys

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR THE LEADER

UNIT AIM:

This unit will introduce junior soldiers to men and women who have made significant contributions to the Christian faith over the last five centuries. They'll learn about key movements in the Church that have helped shape our beliefs as Salvationists.

JOHN AND CHARLES WESLEY were leaders of the evangelical revival of the Church of England in the 18th century. Having both been ordained, in 1735 they traveled to the American colony of Georgia. John served as a missionary; his brother Charles served as the secretary to Governor Oglethorpe. Within a few years they returned to England, were truly converted, and started a movement to bring awareness to the saving love of God.

John Wesley was born on June 17, 1703, as the 15th child of Samuel Wesley, a British clergyman. John Wesley was educated at the University of Oxford. In 1729, he went to Oxford to serve as a fellow at Lincoln College. He formed a club with his brother Charles and friends. The Holy Club members adhered strictly to religious precepts and practices, earning the name "Methodists" from their schoolmates.

On April 2, 1739, John Wesley preached a sermon at an open-air meeting. The enthusiastic reaction convinced him that preaching outdoors was the most effective way to reach large groups of people. Wesley's evangelical and revivalist message was well received by crowds of people. He placed emphasis on inner religion and the assurance that each person was accepted as a child of God.

On May 1, 1739, John Wesley and a group of his followers formed the first Methodist society in London. By the end of May 1739, two additional Methodist societies formed. In 1784, John Wesley issued rules and regulations for the guidance of the Methodist societies even though they were still part of the Church of England. Separation from the Church of England didn't come until after John Wesley's death on March 2, 1791.

Wesley traveled approximately 5,000 miles per year, mostly on horseback, preaching as many as four or five sermons a day. He helped found new Methodist societies across the countryside. He was concerned with the well-being of people. He worked to improve the reading habits of the public, to help people reduce debt, and to build medical clinics. John Wesley was interested in social reform.

Before his death in 1791, he compiled 23 collections of hymns, edited a monthly journal, translated religious texts into English, and kept a personal journal of his spiritual development. At the time of his death, he was one of the best known and most loved men in England.



OPENING ACTIVITY
Transportation 

Before class, obtain a copy of the “William Tell Overture” by Gioacchino Rossini. It’s found on many classical music compilations. It can also be downloaded from online music stores such as iTunes. After junior soldiers settle down, play the first minute of the “William Tell Overture.”

Say: **When you listen to this song, what do you picture in your mind?** (Allow response.) **The “William Tell Overture” was the opening song for a popular TV show in the 1950s, “The Lone Ranger.” The Lone Ranger was a member of the famous Texas Rangers searching for a gang of bad guys. The Lone Ranger always traveled on his trusted horse, Silver.**

Today we’re going to talk about another man who traveled on his trusted horse to tell others about God’s love. We’re going to ride horses to travel back in time to learn about the life of John Wesley.

Let’s practice riding our horses.

Encourage junior soldiers to ride a pretend horse as you play the “William Tell Overture” again.

LESSON
Holiness—The Wesleys  

Before class, designate four separate areas of your classroom to decorate as the four areas of John Wesley’s life. During the lesson, junior soldiers will ride “horseback” to each area to learn about the life of John Wesley. Make one copy of  A for each junior soldier. Junior soldiers will fill in the map as they travel through John Wesley’s life. Information that’s underlined in the lesson answers a question on the map.

Area One: Birth and Childhood

Remove most of the chairs and tables from this area. The Wesley family was poor and didn’t have a lot of furniture in their home. Place a few books and  B on a table.

Area Two: Education

Place a table and chair in the front of this area, and place enough chairs for the junior soldiers in a semi-circle facing the table. Place books, a Bible, candles, and a “plume pen” on the table.

Area Three: Living in America

Decorate the area with trees (real or faux) and other items to give the appearance of being outdoors. Tape  C to the wall. Make a teepee using  D, and place it in this area.



MATERIALS NEEDED:

- *William Tell Overture*
- CD/Media player



MATERIALS NEEDED:

-  A-D
- four designated areas
- pens/pencils



Area Four: Methodist Societies & Outdoor Meetings

Place trees and shrubs (real or faux) and a large cross (drawn on poster board if necessary) to give the appearance of being outdoors. If you're able to, actually go outside for this portion of the lesson.

Say: **John Wesley is a very important man in Church history. His ideas and beliefs led many men and women to leave the Church of England and form their own church, the Methodist Church. John Wesley traveled over 5,000 miles each year to preach to crowds of people in many different places. He didn't have an airplane, train, or car to travel in. He traveled 5,000 miles each year riding a horse.**

Play the *William Tell Overture* and lead junior soldiers to area one for today's lesson.

Say: **John Wesley was born on June 17, 1703, in Lincolnshire, England. He was the 15th child of Reverend Samuel Wesley and Susanna Wesley, but he wasn't the youngest. His parents had four more children after he was born. That's 19 children living in one house!**

The Wesley family didn't have a lot of money. Samuel Wesley was a minister and a farmer. The people who worked on his farm stole from him, so he had very little money, and sometimes very little food. But the Wesley family was happy.

On their fifth birthday, Mrs. Wesley taught each of her children how to read. (Show junior soldiers ♠♣ B.) John wasn't excited about his fifth birthday. He didn't want to learn how to read, but he did. His parents were amazed at how quickly he learned. They knew that it was important for John to go to school and continue to learn. Mr. and Mrs. Wesley were proud of their son, and loved him very much.

There were people in the town of Lincolnshire who didn't like the Reverend or the church. Several times the church was robbed and vandalized. One night when John Wesley was six years old, he heard a strange noise. When he woke up his house was on fire! The Wesleys quickly gathered their children and rushed out of the house. When they got outside, they noticed that John wasn't with them—he was still inside the burning house.

A neighbor saw John in the bedroom window. He climbed on Mr. Wesley's shoulders and reached for John. John climbed out of the window onto the neighbor's shoulders...he was safe from the fire. Mr. Wesley asked his neighbors to pray with him, thanking God for saving his family.

After the fire destroyed their home, the Wesley family was homeless. Neighbors invited the Wesleys to stay with them. Each neighbor took two or three children into their home until the Wesleys could build a new house.



LESSON 2

Move the timeline marker to 1714 on the New Testament timeline. Play the *William Tell Overture* as you lead junior soldiers to area two.

Say: **In 1714, when John Wesley was 11 years old, he rode on horseback to London, England. Mr. and Mrs. Wesley wanted John to go to school, but they didn't have any money to pay for his schooling. A wealthy man named Lord Buckingham paid for John Wesley's education at the Charterhouse School in London. The students who attended the Charterhouse School were the children of teachers and ministers.**

John Wesley was a dedicated student. Each morning when the wake up call sounded, he jumped out of bed, got dressed, and ran around the lawn three times. The other students were still in bed. John studied hard and paid attention in class.

When John Wesley graduated from the Charterhouse School he went to the University of Oxford, a famous university in England. The students who attended the University of Oxford were from wealthy families. John Wesley earned a scholarship to attend the university.

John's younger brother, Charles, joined him at the University of Oxford. Together they formed a club with a few of their friends who had the same beliefs about religion. **This club was called the Holy Club**. The other students made fun of the Holy Club. They called the Wesleys and their friends "Methodists" because they followed the beliefs of their religion strictly.

Move the timeline marker to 1735 on the New Testament timeline. Play the *William Tell Overture* as you lead junior soldiers to area three.

Say: **In 1753, John and Charles Wesley traveled to America to work in the colony of Georgia**. John and Charles Wesley heard stories about the Native Americans living in the American colonies. When the governor of the Georgia colony, Colonel Oglethorpe, asked Charles Wesley to serve as his secretary in America, both John and Charles agreed to go. While Charles worked for the governor, John was a missionary to the Native Americans and the prisoners sent to Georgia from England.

John enjoyed preaching to children. He started a small Sunday school with his friend Charles Delamott. John Wesley liked helping children learn about God and what it means to be a good Christian.

John and Charles Wesley didn't stay in America for very long. They returned to England in 1738.

Move the timeline marker to 1738 on the New Testament timeline. Play the *William Tell Overture* as you lead junior soldiers to area four.



Say: When John Wesley returned to England, he started a Sunday school for children like the one he and his friend Charles Delamott started in Georgia. It was important to John Wesley that the children of London felt God's love.

John Wesley was known as "God's Good Rider" because he rode all over the countryside on his horse. John Wesley rode on his horse to visit friends and to preach sermons. Sometimes John gave four or five sermons in one day! He preached in outdoor meetings for large crowds of people.

John Wesley also preached to people in small groups called Methodist societies. The men and women who joined Methodist societies believed the same things as John Wesley. It was important for these people to follow God's commands as found in the Bible such as visiting prisons and visiting with people who are sick.

John Wesley died on March 2, 1791. After his death, the Methodist societies left the Church of England and formed the Methodist Church.

Before William Booth started The Salvation Army, he was a minister in the Methodist Church. Many of the things we do in The Salvation Army today were things that John Wesley did in the 1700s. Can you think of some? (Allow response—preach outdoors, have Sunday school, visit people in prison, visit people who are sick, etc.) **The Salvation Army isn't a Methodist church, but we believe many of the same things as John Wesley and the Methodists.**

John Wesley believed in something called holiness. He believed that as Christians we're chosen by God to do His will. The Bible says we should comfort people who are sick, and visit people in prison. John Wesley believed in the Word of God, and believed that because he was a Christian, God selected him to comfort people, visit people, and share God's love.

Say: In The Salvation Army, we believe in holiness. We believe that after we ask Jesus to forgive our sins, the Holy Spirit comes to help us live a life that pleases God. The Holy Spirit guides us as we do the things God has chosen for us to do. God has something special for each of us to do. By relying on the Holy Spirit, we can live lives that please God.



MEMORY VERSE
1 Peter 1:15-16 (NIV) 

"The one who chose you is holy. So you should be holy in all that you do. It is written, *'Be holy, because I am holy.'*"

Before class, make one copy of  E. Cut each of the cards along the dotted line and place in a large paper bag (brown grocery bag, shopping bag, or large gift bag). Obtain a large gardening glove.

Review the verse several times with junior soldiers.

Instruct junior soldiers to form a circle. Place the paper bag in the center of the circle. This memory verse game is similar to the game "Hot Potato." While the music is playing, one junior soldier will put the glove on their hand, take it off, and pass it to the next junior soldier, who'll put it on, take it off, and pass it to the next child. This continues until the music stops. Whoever is holding the glove when the music stops will reach into the bag, pull out one card, and tape the card to the wall (or board) in order. Each time a word is selected, all junior soldiers should recite the verse. Continue until all cards have been placed in order.



MATERIALS NEEDED:

-  E
- large paper bag
- gardening glove
- CD/MP3
- CD/Media player
- tape



The portion of the memory verse printed in ***italics*** is the portion of the verse for younger junior soldiers to memorize.



SIZE WISE:

If you have a large brigade, make multiple sets of cards and have groups compete. If you only have one or two junior soldiers, place cards in a large bag. Give each junior soldier a pair of bulky gloves. Time the junior soldiers to see how fast they can place the verse in order.



TEACHER TIPS:

If you have mostly younger junior soldiers, only place the italicized words in the bag.





MATERIALS NEEDED:

- F
- various craft supplies

REINFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

(CHOOSE ONE OPTION)

Create A Crest (Option 1)

Before class, make a crest on F by illustrating several things that are important to you. Be prepared to explain your crest to the brigade. Gather art supplies like construction paper, glue, glitter, markers, stickers, etc. Place craft supplies in an accessible area for junior soldiers.

Say: **When John Wesley and his brother were at the University of Oxford they formed a religious club. Do you remember the name of the club?** (Allow response—The Holy Club.) **They formed a club because they believed many of the same things. Religion was very important to the group. They believed the Bible, and wanted to follow God’s commands.**

During the time period when The Holy Club was formed it was common to have a coat of arms or crest to symbolize what your group believed. In The Salvation Army we have a crest that symbolizes our beliefs as members of The Salvation Army.

I created a crest to represent the things that I believe in. (Show junior soldiers your crest. Explain the meaning of the different items.) **Now it’s your turn to make a crest that will let others know what you believe.**

If you have time, allow junior soldiers to share the meaning of their crests with the brigade.



MATERIALS NEEDED:

- poster board
- *Great Big Praise* CD
- CD/Media player

Song of Blessing (Option 2)

Before class, write the words to Song #16 “Bless His Holy Name” from *Great Big Praise for a Great Big God* on a piece of poster board.

Play the song once while junior soldiers look over the words (Track #16, CD 1), then play it again and have the junior soldiers sing along.

Say: **John Wesley believed that God is a holy God. He also believed that God can use people to do His will on earth. As Christians and members of The Salvation Army, we believe that God is holy. We also believe that God uses us, His children, to do His will on earth.**



WORSHIP PROGRAM

CHORUS: Song #4: "Bless that Wonderful Name"
(Track #4, *Great Big Praise* CD 1)

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:13-16 (NIRV)

CHORUS: Song #20: "The Greatest Thing"
(Track #20, *Great Big Praise* CD 1)

DEVOTIONAL

To Be Like Him

Say: **What do you want to be when you grow up?** (Allow response.) **How will you learn to be a _____** (insert a junior soldier's response)? **If you want to be a doctor, you have to know a lot about science and math. You go to college and medical school for many years after graduating from high school. You have to study hard to learn about different medicines, sicknesses, and how the body works.**

To be a ballerina, you have to take care of your body by eating good food, exercising, and getting plenty of rest. You must take classes to learn how to dance. Each day you practice different routines to prepare for a perfect performance. Being a ballerina takes dedication and hard work.

If you want to be a teacher, you have to go to school to learn about the subjects that you want to teach. You have to learn how to manage a classroom, help students, and how to give grades that are fair.

To be a firefighter you have to attend a special school to learn about fire safety, how to prevent fires, how to save people from burning buildings, and how to control fire. Firefighters also have to train their bodies to be strong and fast. They must exercise each day to stay physically fit to do their job.

Where do we learn about being a good Christian? (Allow response.) **The Bible teaches us a lot about being a Christian. The Bible tells us what we should do and how we should behave. When we're living the way God wants us to live, we help other people know what it means to be a Christian. In First Peter, it tells us how to be holy—set apart by God. God has selected us, His children, to do many wonderful things. But, we must be good Christians so that others know we're God's children.**

Read 1 Peter 1:13-16.



Say: Like being a doctor, a ballerina, a teacher, or a firefighter, being a Christian takes a lot of work and training on our part. We must read the Bible and trust the Holy Spirit to guide us so that everyone will know about God's love because of our actions. Learning to be a good Christian is very important. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can learn to be good Christians and show a good Christian example in everything that we do.

PRAYER



Remember to fill out the *What Do You Think Evaluation* on page 320.

