

John Wesley's Accountability Discipleship Groups

"Confess your faults one to another and pray one for another..."

"Bear ye one anothers burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Introduction to Methodist Accountability Discipleship Groups. [Called Methodist Societies, Classmeetings, Band Societies by John Wesley]

The heart of Methodism during the life of John Wesley was the Methodist Class Meeting. This was a small covenant discipleship support group where members were accountable to each other. They confessed their faults one to another, prayed for each other, and stirred up one another to love and good works. Here the teachings of the Bible were examined in light of actual personal experience. Here leaders were nurtured and equipped.

The following materials are taken from the writings of John Wesley and his Preachers. For future study see The Works of John Wesley.

John Wesley's Rules for the Band-Societies (drawn up Dec. 25, 1738)

The design of our meeting is, to obey that command of God, "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed."

To this end, we intend,-

1. To meet once a week, at the least.
2. To come punctually at the hour appointed, without some extraordinary reason.
3. To begin (those of us who are present) exactly at the hour, with singing or prayer.
4. To speak each of us in order, freely and plainly, the true state of our souls, with the faults we have committed in thought, word, or deed, and the temptations we have felt, since our last meeting.
5. To end every meeting with prayer, suited to the state of each person present.