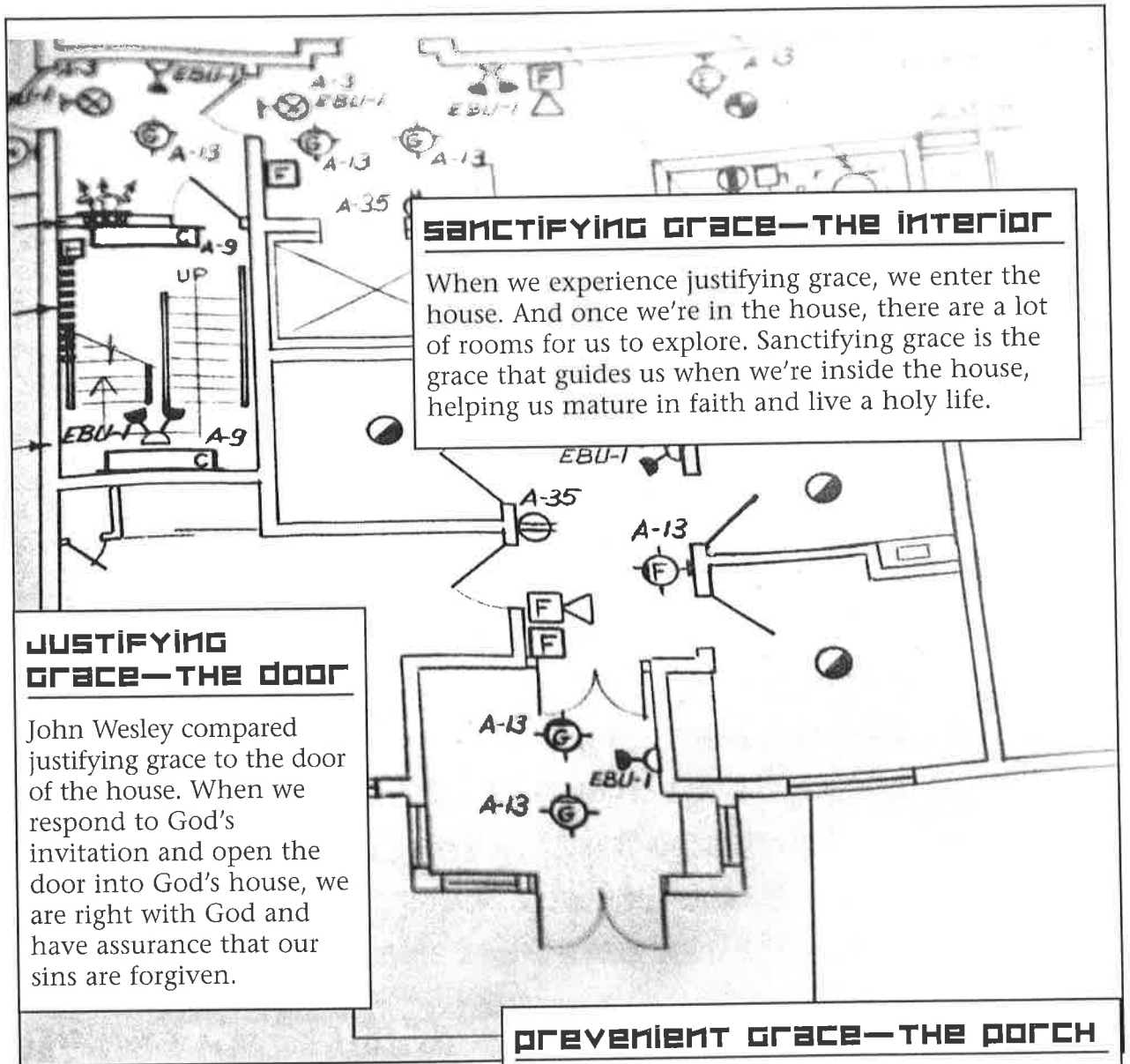


House of Salvation

John Wesley compares salvation and God's grace to a house. This illustration explains how each movement of God's grace—prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying—corresponds to a different part of the house.



Growth in Grace

Below is a list of spiritual practices that are common ways in which Christians open themselves to God's grace. John Wesley referred to such practices as "means of grace," actions ordained by God through which God conveys to us prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying grace.

1. Read and reflect on the Bible daily.
2. Worship weekly with the community of faith.
3. Take time each day to be still and listen for God.
4. Care for your body through regular exercise and healthy eating habits.
5. Give up one meal each month ("fast") and give the money that would have gone to that meal to the poor.
6. Forgive your friends and family members daily.
7. Practice self-denial when something you want is not a need.
8. Give thanks to God for the many blessings in your life.
9. Share what you have with those who have nothing.
10. Offer hospitality to church visitors.
11. Practice and learn to be comfortable with solitude.
12. Receive the sacrament of Communion in worship when it is offered.
13. Sing hymns and spiritual songs to God.
14. Share your faith testimony with a friend.
15. Speak out for those who experience injustice.
16. Spend time regularly in Christian fellowship with others.
17. Confess your sins to others in the community of faith.
18. Speak the truth in love when someone needs to hear it.
19. Reconcile with others when your relationship with them is broken.
20. Take part in faith formation activities, such as Sunday school.
21. Seek ordination if you receive such a call from God.
22. Care for God's creation.
23. Be a good steward of your time.
24. Pray for others daily.
25. Practice discernment when you have decisions to make.

Thorny Issue Questions

If you have had an experience of justifying grace, and know that God pardons your sins, is it then OK to go out and live however you want?

Do people who practice in a non-Christian religion experience God's grace, too?

Two people have experiences of justifying grace—one during his teenage years, the other shortly before her death. Which of these two people has God been more gracious to? (See Matthew 20:1-16.)

Why do people who have experienced justifying and sanctifying grace still do bad things sometimes?

Why, do you think, do United Methodists baptize infants (as opposed to other denominations that baptize only those who are old enough to profess their faith)? What does our understanding of grace have to do with it?

Close your eyes: What are the three forms of grace we talked about? How does God work through each of these types of grace?

In what ways is God at work in people's lives before they're even aware of God?

Sanctifying grace is all about living a holy life. What does a holy life look like?

Christians believe that we are justified through Christ. What does Christ have to do with the forgiveness of our sins and with living our lives in relationship with God?

What Kind of Grace?

1. PHILIPPIANS 2:12-13 _____

2. GALATIANS 3:10-14 _____

3. JEREMIAH 1:5 _____

4. JOHN 15:7-11 _____

5. ROMANS 5:8 _____

6. JAMES 2:14-19 _____

7. EZEKIEL 34:11-16 _____

8. 1 JOHN 4:19 _____

9. ROMANS 8:35-39 _____

Scripture on Scripture

2 Timothy 3:16-17, THE MESSAGE

Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God’s way. Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us.

- ✦ What do you imagine or think of when you read the words “God breathed”?
- ✦ Take a quick look at **Genesis 2:7**, where God breathes into Adam and fills Adam with God’s breath or spirit. How does God “animate” or “bring to life” Scripture?
- ✦ In your own words, what does this passage from 2 Timothy say Scripture is useful for?

Psalm 119:97-105, NRSV

97 Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all day long.

98 Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is always with me.

99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your decrees are my meditation.

100 I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts.

101 I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word.

102 I do not turn away from your ordinances, for you have taught me.

103 How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

104 Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

- ✦ This passage comes from the longest chapter in the Bible, a chapter devoted to reflection on the commandments of God. What do you hear within this passage about how we can use Scripture to make difficult decisions?

Philippians 4:8-9, NRSV

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

- ✦ Try rewriting the first verse of this passage in a negative way. In other words, what would Paul tell his audience *not* to think about?
- ✦ What, do you think, does this passage tell us about faithful decision making?

Romans 12:2, NIV

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- ✦ Why is it important to use our minds rather than making decisions based on the “pattern of the world”?

Bible Statements

1. **Just 10 people were responsible for writing the entire Bible. (False)**

- ✦ No one knows for certain how many authors there were originally.
- ✦ We do know that there were many authors, and some of the books seem to have had more than one author.

2. **Many different kinds of literature are present in the Bible. (True)**

- ✦ Some of the types of literature include poetry, history, prophetic writing, law, gospel, letter, liturgy, song, saying or proverb, and apocalyptic.
- ✦ Just as we would today read a book of poetry in a different way than we would read a newspaper, it's important to think about and consider the type of literature in the Bible when we read a particular part of it.

3. **Each book in the Bible was written especially for a particular person or group of people at a particular time in history. (True)**

- ✦ The authors were not necessarily thinking about us when they put quill to parchment.
- ✦ The Bible is absolutely useful, meaningful, important, and inspiring to us today, even if it was written for a particular audience.

4. **God told the authors what to write down, and they did so.**

- ✦ Some Christians believe that God spoke the books of the Bible, word-for-word, to its authors.
- ✦ Other Christians believe that the writers of the books of the Bible chose their own words but that God was present with them and the Holy Spirit guided them as they wrote. This perspective is common among United Methodists.

5. When we read and interpret the Bible, it's important to have some idea of what these books meant to their first audiences.

- ✦ The Bible is a source of wisdom, guidance, and inspiration to people in every time and place, even if they are unaware of the historical context of the books of the Bible.
- ✦ Still, we need to be careful not to put our own spin on passages of Scripture. Therefore, it helps to be able to put books of the Bible in their historical context and to understand what they meant to their original audience. You don't need to be able to read Greek or Hebrew, but some basic knowledge of ancient Israel and the first-century Roman world is helpful.

6. The Old Testament isn't very important, so Christians shouldn't spend much time with it. (False)

- ✦ The various books in the Old Testament were the books that Jesus would have read, studied, memorized, and taught from.
- ✦ These books are still useful, instructive, and inspiring in our own time.
- ✦ Reading the Bible without reading the Old Testament is like reading a biography without reading the first two-thirds of the book. The Old Testament gives us a much richer understanding of God's story and God's relationship to humankind and all of creation.

7. The Bible is a really boring book. (Mostly False)

- ✦ Sure, there are parts of it that most people find pretty boring (for example, some of the census figures in Numbers). But the truth is that the more you read the Bible, the more enjoyable it becomes.
- ✦ There are many translations of the Bible and paraphrases of the Bible. Do some research on these different versions of the Bible to see which one works best for you. You may find that a Bible translated into plain, contemporary English makes the most sense to you. Or you might benefit from the challenge of a version that uses rich vocabulary and introduces you to new words.

Scenarios for Putting It All Together

Quadrilateral Thinking Case Study 1

The senior high youth group at First United Methodist has participated in a summer work trip for the past 20 years, each time taking part in a home repair project in Appalachia. Many of the adult leaders who have gone on the trip have done so for years, and both the youth and the congregation feel very good about the project and their past experiences.

This year, the church has some new youth leaders who participated in other mission projects with their previous church. They like the project that First UMC normally does, but they are also very aware that there are many wonderful projects around the country and many needs in places other than in Appalachia. These new leaders would like for the youth to consider another project. How can the adult leaders and the youth use the Quadrilateral to consider different options and make a faithful decision?

SCRIPTURE:

TRADITION:

REASON:

EXPERIENCE:

Scenarios for Putting It All Together (continued)

Quadrilateral Thinking Case Study 2

The youth group at Wesley UMC has grown a lot in the past couple of years; and little by little, the behavior of the youth has started to change. Couples are sitting next to each other and holding hands during youth group, paying more attention to each other than to the activities. Some youth who are not “regulars” in the church seem to have little respect for the youth room and other spaces in the church. Youth who don’t “fit in” as well are getting picked on more often. Cell phones go off regularly during discussions. It just seems as if the level of respect for one another has declined.

The youth leaders know that a solution has to be found—and soon. They want the youth to have a good time, but they also feel that there should be more of a purpose to the group than just fun. Rather than impose a bunch of rules on the group, some of the youth and leaders have decided that they want to use the Quadrilateral to determine how to proceed. What would each of the four parts of the quadrilateral have to say in this situation?

SCRIPTURE:

TRADITION:

REASON:

EXPERIENCE:

Do You Know Hymn?

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| _____ 1. Trinity | A. Jesu, Jesu (432) |
| _____ 2. Repentance | B. All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (155) |
| _____ 3. Creation | C. Maker, in Whom We Live (88) |
| _____ 4. Church | D. Lift Every Voice and Sing (519) |
| _____ 5. Salvation | E. Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior (351) |
| _____ 6. Justice | F. Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore (344) |
| _____ 7. God's Call | G. All Things Bright and Beautiful (147) |
| _____ 8. Holiness | H. The Church's One Foundation (545) |

Wholly Holy Life

SUSANNA WESLEY was the wife of Anglican minister, Samuel Wesley, and mother of 19 children, including John and Charles Wesley. Despite times of poverty, her husband's absence, and even her house burning down, Susanna remained faithful to God. She led family worship services on Sunday afternoon that even the local people of Epworth attended. Yet it was her regularly scheduled time with each of her children, ensuring that they grew in Christian character, that perhaps influenced the world. The household and example of holy living by Susanna influenced how John and Charles believed that the people called Methodists should live.

PHOEBE PALMER was a life-long Methodist, from New York City. She and her husband were drawn to Wesley's doctrine of Christian perfection. In 1837, she stopped seeking a single conversion experience and, instead, renewed her commitment to God. She felt called to help teach others how to live a life of "entire sanctification," where your heart is entirely filled with God. She led a women's Bible study, which men were later allowed to attend. She is often referred to as the mother of the holiness movement in America.

DOROTHY HEIGHT was unable to attend Barnard College, despite her scholarship; because the school had already admitted the quota of two black women for that year. Instead, she attended New York University and began her 50-year career as a civil rights leader, fighting for the rights of African Americans and women. She organized programs such as "Wednesdays in Mississippi," where white and black women from the north and south could come together and better understand each other. Leaders such as Eleanor Roosevelt sought her counsel, and she received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2004 for her efforts. She did all of this because of her faith. When asked, she said, "I believe that God has a purpose for my being here. And I'm driven by that realization."

JACOB ALBRIGHT founded the Evangelical Association, one of the denominations that would join to form The United Methodist Church. After several of his children died during an epidemic, he underwent a faith crisis. A year later in 1791 he experienced a faith conversion which not only strengthened his faith but led him to preaching. Intent on spreading scriptural holiness over the land, Albright preached to German settlements in Pennsylvania. He emphasized salvation through a change of heart, not just through traditions, forms and ceremonies.

LYNN DE SILVA was a Methodist pastor from Sri Lanka. He founded the first journal that addresses the relationship between Buddhists and Christians. He believed that understanding could help promote peace between the two faiths. He eventually served as the Executive President of the Presidium of the National Council for Religion and Peace, in Sri Lanka (1979-80), and served for more than twenty years on the World Council of Churches, focused on understanding and peace between Christians and other faiths.

Ingredients for a Holy Life

OPTION A: POTATO CASSEROLE

1. 4 baking potatoes, pre-boiled
2. 1½ cup light cream
3. 1 stick margarine
4. ½ pound yellow cheese
5. ½ pint of sour cream
6. ¾ cup chopped green onion
7. 6 strips of bacon, fried and crumbled

Preheat oven to 350. Peel boiled potatoes and grate them. Combine cream, margarine, and cheese in a double boiler and stir until melted. Add cheese mixture to grated potatoes, sprinkle onions and bacon on top. Bake for 30 minutes until bubbly. Top with sour cream. (Serves 8)

OPTION B: VEGETABLE FRIED RICE

1. 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
2. 1 cup chopped onion
3. 1 cup chopped celery
4. 1 cup chopped and peeled carrots
5. 1 cup chopped cabbage
6. 1 cup chopped broccoli
7. 1 cup chopped water chestnuts

Also: 2 cups rice, ½ cup water, ¼ teaspoon garlic salt, 2 tablespoons soy sauce

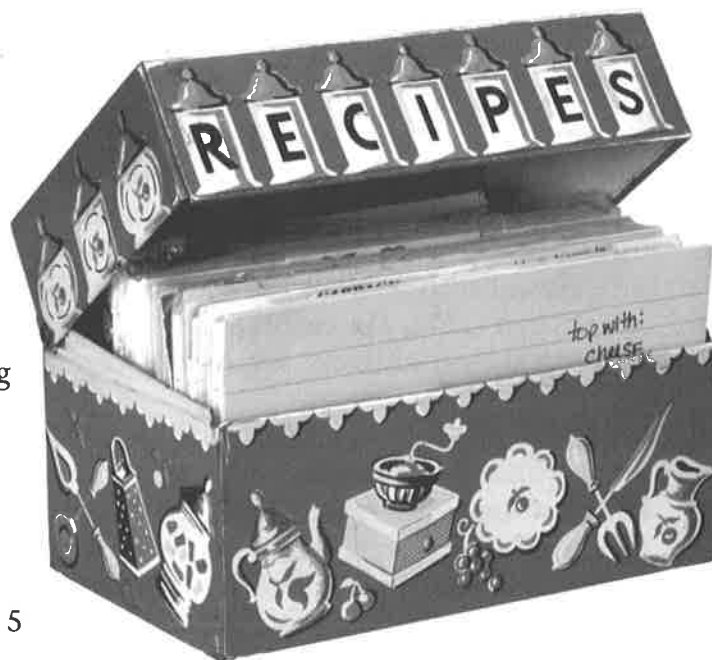
Add vegetables (items with corresponding narratives) to a skillet and stir, cooking 5 minutes or until tender. You can stop recipe here and return to do the following cooking after class if need be.

Add additional items to skillet. Cover and cook 5 minutes. Uncover and cook 5 more minutes.

OPTION C: CHICKEN ENCHILADAS

1. 3 cups cooked chopped chicken
2. 15-oz. can green chili enchilada sauce
3. 1 14-oz. can diced tomatoes
4. 1 4-oz. can chopped green chilies
5. 1 large chopped onion
6. 2 cups jack and cheddar cheese
7. 10 corn tortillas

Preheat oven to 350. Combine sauce, tomatoes, chili and onion. Simmer until onions are tender. Add chicken, stir and simmer 5 more minutes. In a 9x13 casserole dish, layer tortillas; top with chicken mixture; sprinkle with cheese. Continue layering until all tortillas are used up. Top with chicken mixture, then cheese. Cover with foil and bake for 30 minutes. Serve with sour cream.



Puzzled by Holiness

**Practice a
musical
instrument**

**Eat a
balanced
meal**

**Memorize
vocabulary
words**

**Run drills
in sports**

**Go to
school
every day**

Live a holy life

**Perform
fire drills**

**Do
chores**

**Read
assigned
chapters and
books**

**Learn
first-aid
skills**

**Show
your work
in math**

**Brush
your
teeth**

**Rehearse
a play**

**Get sleep
every night**

**Go to scout
meetings**

Liturgical Doughnut

