

colaborate
Methodist Confirmation
Student Handbook

Methodist History & Doctrine

Sampler

SPARK
HOUSE

Student Handbook

The centerpiece of the Colaborate: Methodist Confirmation curriculum is the student handbook. Each handbook contains fifteen lessons with each lesson working through four pages of handbook content. The Colaborate handbook guides students through a process of discovery with intriguing questions, in-depth information, and punchy graphics. Each page of the handbook serves a specific purpose that pulls students into the content.

/co • lab • orate/

FRAMING THE PROBLEM

An opening infographic sets up the tension for the lesson, explicitly centering on student assumptions, biases, even disinterest. After students work through the first page, they'll watch a short animated video that heightens the tension through hyperbole, stereotypes, and misinformation. It is intentionally—and age-appropriately—provocative to build interest and get students thinking about the topic.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

The center spread of the lesson equips students to work through the tension created on page one. It features an infographic that presents content in a memorable, visually powerful way, incorporating Bible passages, Methodist doctrine, and historical context to help give students a stronger sense of the theology behind each lesson. Students are invited to interact with the content by drawing, asking and answering questions, and sharing their ideas with a partner or the group.

PROJECT AND CLOSING

The final page of each lesson solidifies the concepts through two activities—an individual writing activity and an active group project. No pipe cleaners? No problem. Every project in Colaborate can be done with materials you have on hand—paper, pencils, tape, scissors. You'd be surprised how much stuff you can create with just these simple supplies. These activities give students opportunities to articulate what they've discovered, share their thoughts with others, and engage with the broader church community.

Videos

The animated Colaborate videos aren't meant to stand alone. They don't give answers and they won't guide your class discussion. In fact, they might leave you scratching your head a bit. And that's fantastic. These short videos use humor, exaggeration, and assumptions to tease out the problem statement of each lesson. The retro feel of the videos plays off of students' perceptions of church as outdated and irrelevant, while the off-beat humor and quirky narration keep your students engaged as they start to ask new questions about some very old ideas.

The Quadrilateral

How do we know?

Every day of your life is filled with decisions—little ones and big ones—that both define and reflect who you are, what you value, and who you want to be. But knowing how to make good decisions, the kind that help you live a holy life and follow Jesus, can be tricky. Wouldn't it be great to have a decision-making system that helped you know what's right?

2 Timothy 3:14-15

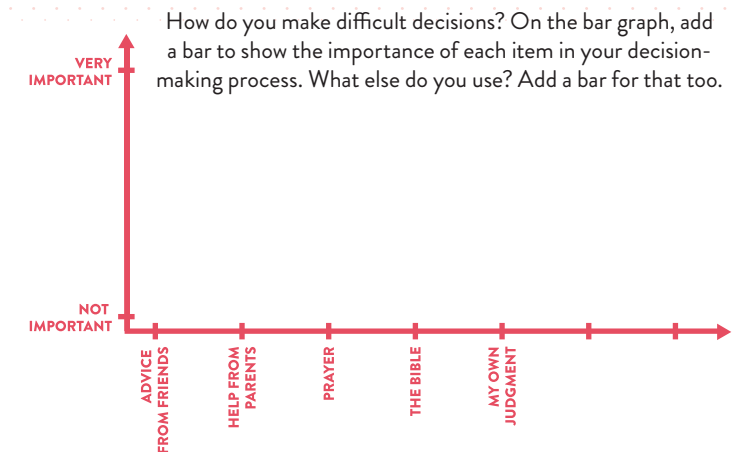
"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."



THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO

How do we know what it means to be a Christian? Well, the Bible is the starting point. It's where we find the story of God and God's love and care for God's people. It's where we discover Jesus and learn how he freed us from sin and death. It's where we see how God's people have struggled and strived to follow God in good times and really, really bad times. But is it enough?

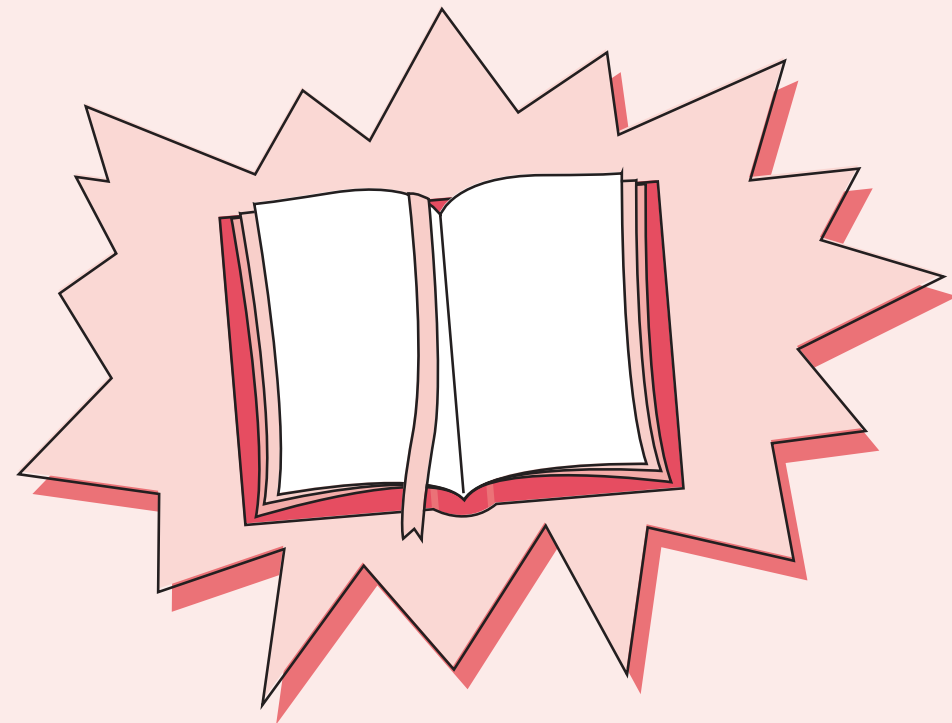
On the Bible, write down one thing you've learned about God or faith or yourself from something you read or heard from the Bible. Now write down one part of your life where you wish the Bible offered more help.



The Bible is the inspired Word of God, so it should say everything needed to make sense of our lives, right? Or maybe it's not *all* we need.

Have No Fear . . . The Quadrilateral Is Here!

It's easy as 1, 2, 3 . . . 4!



SCRIPTURE!

When facing a big question of faith, John Wesley believed that we have to start with Scripture, the inspired Word of God. Look up 2 Timothy 3:14-17. Near the Bible, write down some of the ways the writer of this letter suggests we use the Bible. Now talk with a partner about a time when you've used the Bible in one of these ways. If you never have, how would you go about doing that?

During the course of his life, John Wesley worked through a lot of difficult questions in his personal faith and public theology. In the mid-twentieth century, Albert Outler, a Methodist professor, was reading Wesley's old sermons and journals. He discovered that Wesley had a method for answering most of his big faith questions. Outler named Wesley's method the "Wesleyan Quadrilateral."

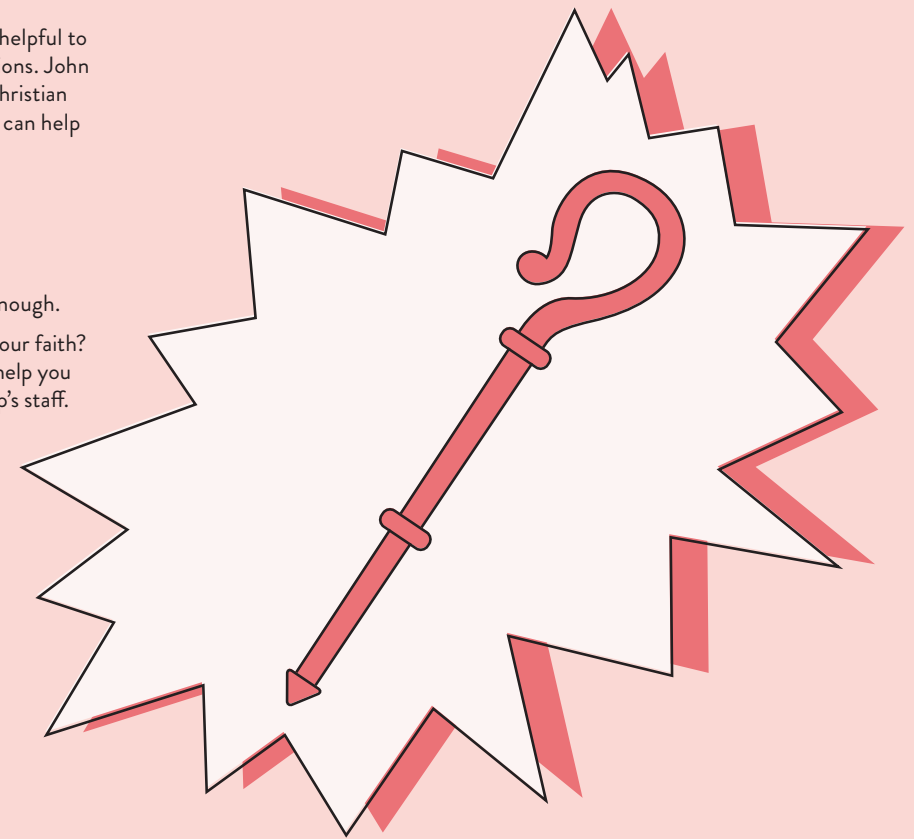
TRADITION!

When we face big questions in life, especially about our faith, it's helpful to know that we're probably not the first people to have those questions. John Wesley believed we should consider what church leaders and Christian thinkers have had to say about any issue we're facing. Their ideas can help guide our thinking too.

Need some examples?

- Athanasius wondered if Jesus is really God.
- St. Francis of Assisi believed God loves animals too.
- Irenaeus asked whether we need the Old Testament.
- Mother Teresa was concerned that her faith wasn't strong enough.

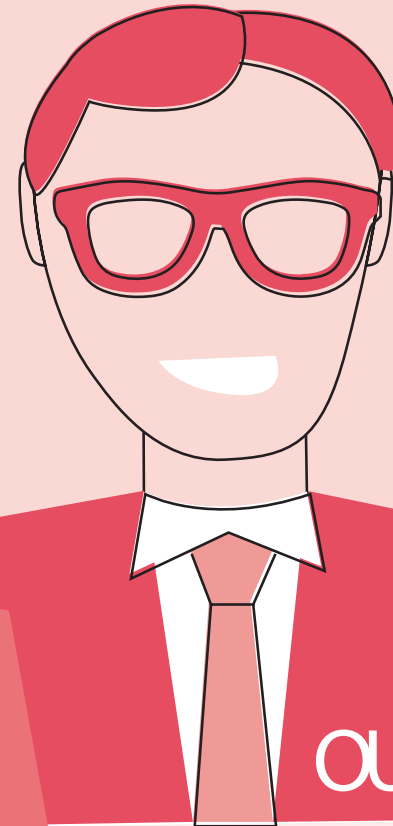
What are some songs, prayers, or worship traditions that impact your faith? When have you looked to members of your church or family to help you understand more about God? Write your thoughts by the bishop's staff.



Every superhero needs a special power. John Wesley believed the Holy Spirit gives us the power to use the four resources that would become the Quadrilateral and find the answers we need. What else do you know about the Holy Spirit? In the space around John and Albert, draw a picture that symbolizes the Holy Spirit. (Hint: See Galatians 5:22-23.)



WESLEY!



OUTLER!

EXPERIENCE!

God shows us truth in our daily lives, which is why Wesley believed we ought to use our own experiences to help us learn about our faith. The way you experience God can help you make sense of the Bible. But be careful! We also need to consider the experiences of other people. If your experience has taught you that stealing someone's phone is the best way to get a phone, you might not be thinking about this quite right. For Wesley, experience was like conducting an experiment, a way to prove and demonstrate the reality of God's grace at work in us. Our experiences, filtered through the Bible and tradition and reason, help us become more like Jesus.

In the space to the left, draw an image that reminds you of an experience in your life that taught you something about God or your faith.



REASON!

Wesley believed that God wants us to use our brains and that our beliefs about God should make sense with all the other things we know to be true. We can use Scripture, tradition, and experience to figure out what's true, but sometimes they don't quite fit together. That's when we put our brains to work. You might have to think about a question for days, or weeks, or even years before you find an answer that works.

What's a question you had when you were younger but know the answer to now? Write it near the graduation cap.



Calling on the Quadrilateral!

We all have big questions in our faith, so let's practice using the Quadrilateral to think theologically!

Option 1: Follow the Steps

Think of a decision you're trying to make, then work through the Quadrilateral on your way to a (possible) answer. If you need more time, this is a great activity to practice at home!

Scripture: What does the Bible have to say about this problem? Think in general terms. The Bible might not say anything about how to tell your parents about a failing grade, but it does have a lot to say about honoring your parents and being honest. Find a Bible with an index at the back to help you find passages that might offer insights.


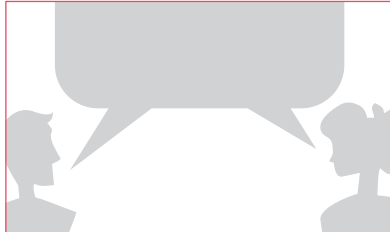
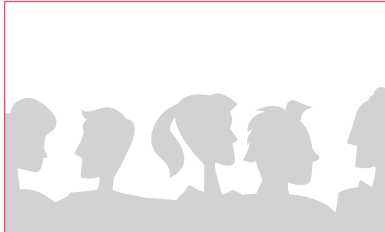
Tradition: What advice do you think a wise and mature member of the church would give you about this decision?

Experience: What life events could help you think through this decision? How do they fit with what the Bible is saying?

Reason: What else do you know that could factor into your decision?

Found an answer? Great! Not yet? Don't worry! Give it some time. Remember, some answers take a long time to find.

What part of the Quadrilateral do you tend to use most? Why?

1. Think	2. Share	3. Discuss
		

Option 2: Super-Team ... Assemble!

Supplies: butcher paper, markers, tape, scissors

Every hero needs a costume!

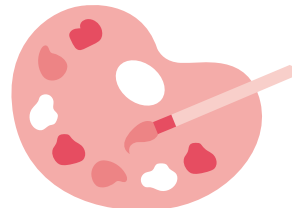
- In a group of two to four super-friends, pick one of your questions (or a friend's question) from the first page of this lesson.



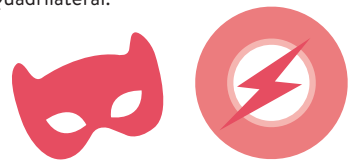
- Using butcher paper and tape, work with your group to make four articles of clothing, each representing one part of the Quadrilateral.

Scripture	Tradition
Reason	Experience

- Bring out your artistic side, and decorate the costume pieces using markers.



- Time for a superhero show-off! Share your creations with the class, and explain why each piece represents the given part of the Quadrilateral.



THE CORE OF THE CURRICULUM AND A BIBLE YOU'LL CARRY WITH YOU FOR YEARS TO COME!



Featuring interactive graphics, fascinating Methodist facts and quotes, and insightful commentary, the Colaborate Methodist Student Bible is an integral component of your Colaborate: Methodist Confirmation experience.

 wearesparkhouse  #wearesparkhouse

