

# ABCD'S OF WESLEYAN DISCIPLESHIP

## A. ACCOUNTABILITY

Meet “once a week at least, in order to inquire how ....[your] souls prosper; to advise, reprove, comfort, or exhort, as occasion may require.”

[from *A Plain Account of the People Called Methodists, Part II.5(1)*, p. 268 *Volume V The Works of John Wesley*]

## B. BIBLE STUDY

“I want to know one thing, the way to heaven; how to land safe on that happy shore. God Himself has condescended to teach the way; for this end He came from heaven. He hath written it down in a book. Give me that book! At any price give me the Book of God!”

[from *Preface to Sermons on Several Occasions by John Wesley, paragraph 3, p. 61, Volume V The Works of John Wesley*]

## C. CARING

“Watching over one another in love, that they may help each other to work out their salvation.”

[from *The Nature, Design and General Rules of the United Societies*]

## D. DOING DISCIPLESHIP

“Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Neither is love content with barely working no evil to our neighbour. It continually incites us to do good: as we have time, and opportunity, to do good in every possible kind, and in every possible degree to all men.”

[From Wesley's sermon *The Law Established by Faith, Sermons on Several Occasions*]

## A. ACCOUNTABILITY

Meet “once a week at least, in order to inquire how their souls prosper; to advise, reprove, comfort, or exhort, as occasion may require.”

1. Do no harm – When have you felt far away from God or neighbor this past week?

*Suggestions: Have I resisted the temptation to gossip? Have I been fair to my family members, my coworkers, other church workers, my neighbors? Have I avoided being critical and judgmental of other people? Have I done anything to harm another person, or God’s creation? Have I been neglectful of my own body? Have I harmed anyone by what I have said or done?*

2. Do good – What good works have you done for the sake of God and neighbor this past week?

*Suggestions: How have I made a positive difference in my family, church, job, community? Have I visited the sick, the widowed, the orphaned, given relief to the poor? Have I responded to insults with forgiveness? Have I prayed for and even done kindness to those I don’t get along with? What have I done for the good of God’s creation? Have I been hospitable to others, especially the stranger? Have I put God and others before myself?*

3. Stay in relationship with God – Have you used the “means of grace” this past week? These are prayer, searching the Scriptures, corporate worship, Christian fellowship, fasting, receiving the Lord’s Supper.

*Suggestions: Have I worshiped God with other believers each week? Have I spent time each day with God in prayer? Have I taken God’s word seriously by really studying and applying it to my life? Have I met together with other Christians to study God’s Word, care for each other, and grow closer to God? Have I anticipated the Lord’s Supper as a way of really getting close to Christ? Have I practiced self-control, such as fasting or self-denial, as a way of reminding myself of my complete dependence on the grace of God?*

## B. BIBLE STUDY

“I want to know the way to heaven; it is written in a book. Oh, give me that book! Give me the book of God!”

THE "SOAR" METHOD:

**S**earch the Scripture

**O**bserve

**A**pply

**R**espond

First, read the Scripture.

Second, write down observations about the passage. These include the historical context and the purpose of the text.

Third, apply it to your life or to the situation in the world today.

Fourth, write down how you will respond in your own life to what you have read.

Finally, write a prayer in response to your study.

*(You may find a resource for Bible Study at <https://soarlectionarybiblestudy.wordpress.com/>)*

## C. CARING

“Watch over one another in love”

Spiritual and personal growth in the context of a small group involves sharing struggles as well as successes. This requires transparency, which means that the members must trust each other; and this requires compassion and strict confidentiality.

Watching over one another in love begins when we truly begin to care for one another. A word of caution, though. Sometimes caring means encouraging and supporting one another. But sometimes for the sake of spiritual growth, caring means challenging one another to move beyond where we are right now. Sometimes it may even mean gentle and loving reproof. To do that we must always speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15).

We may ask one another:

- How is it with your soul?
- How is it with your family?
- How is it with your work?
- How is it with your ministry?

## D. DOING DISCIPLESHIP

“Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Neither is love content with barely working no evil to our neighbour. It continually incites us to do good: as we have time, and opportunity, to do good in every possible kind, and in every possible degree to all men.”

Identify areas of need, mission, service in the church or the community and make a commitment to meet that need. This may be an individual commitment, or even better, a commitment by the whole group to be in ministry together. For example, the group may agree to visit nursing homes together, or work at a mission outreach together, or clean up a section of the church together, or volunteer to help with a particular ministry in the church, or even go out into the neighborhood and invite folks to church!

No one should feel pressured to do the same thing, but each member is encouraged to find some form of ministry where they are actively engaged in ministry.