

Created For Happiness: Session 3

Group A: The Image of God, Salvation and Happiness (pgs. 59 -64)

- 1) What does our society often tell us is the purpose of one's life? What do we believe as Christians we are created for? How does this impact your daily life?
- 2) What is John Wesley's understanding of the connection between holiness and happiness? Does one precede the other?
- 3) Which of the three categories of desire do you struggle with the most and why (62)?
- 4) What are some practical, tangible ways you can redirect your desires toward God?

Group B: Happiness through Holiness, Happiness as a Feeling, Heaviness (pgs. 65 -71)

- 1) If emotions are good indicators of our desires (65), what was the last thing you were really emotional about (angry, happy, sad)? What does that say about your desires?
- 2) Why does Wesley insist that one must perform both works of piety and works of mercy? Can there be one without the other?
- 3) How does the phrase "Love the giver more than the gift" relate to Wesley's understanding of pleasure (68) ?
- 4) How is it possible to remain "happy in God" in the face of struggles? Can you share a story of someone who embodies this for you?

Group C: Social Religion (pgs. 75 – 79)

- 1) Wesley believed that face to face relationships were important for our growth in holiness through accountability and the means of grace. Do you agree? What about today's livestreaming capabilities and the possibility of online Communion?
- 2) In Matthew 25: 31 – 46 Jesus describes some of the ways we can be in community with others performing works of mercy. What are some of the ways you and your church are engaged in this work?
- 3) Using the United Methodist Hymnal, identify some "Wesley" hymns that address Methodism's focus on social religion: caring for the poor, the sick, those in prison and seeking justice and peace for all.