
United Methodist Church Short Opening Prayer Sample

Longing to Meet You Participant's Guide
 A Short History of the Methodists, in the United States of America
 Roadmap to Renewal
 Consuming Mission
 The Big Influence of Small Things
 Guidelines Small Membership Church
 Congregational Revitalization Through Small Group Ministry at Cokesbury United Methodist Church
 Preaching in the Small Membership Church
 The Wesleyan Journey Pastor Guide
 "One Small Step," First United Methodist Church, Carson City, Nevada, 1859-1969
 Back on the Farm
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 Go Forth, Christian Soul
 This We Believe Leader's Guide
 All I Want For Christmas Leader Guide
 40 Days with the Holy Spirit
 Our Strangely Warmed Hearts
 John Leader Guide
 A Short History of West Creek United Methodist Church, Comprising One-hundred Years in Methodism in Ocean County, with Details
 Also of Growth and Development in the Township Itself
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 The Salvation of Doctor Who Leader Guide
 History of the Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church, 1939-1979
 Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course Participant's Book
 Three Simple Questions
 God, Grace, and Gooseberry
 Near the Cross Large Print
 Longing to Meet You
 The Bible Year Leader Guide
 A Disciple's Path Leader Guide with Download
 A Disciple's Path Daily Workbook
 A Mission Journey
 Living as United Methodist Christians
 A Short History of First United Methodist Church New Braunfels, 2nd Edition

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ATKINSON HAIDEN

Longing to Meet You Participant's Guide WestBow Press
 Leader guide for eight-week small group study to help you
 deepen your understanding of United Methodist core beliefs. This
 We Believe: The Core of Wesleyan Faith and Practice by William
 H. Willimon For John Wesley, the Bible is the joyfully consistent
 testimony of God's never-ending grace and ever-seeking love.
 Likewise, studying the Bible is more than merely knowing what
 Scripture says; it is also about living every day as a child of God.
 Beginning with the Core Terms found in The Wesley Study Bible,
 author Bishop William H. Willimon systematically lays out key
 Wesleyan tenets of faith so that you will have a fresh way to hear
 God's voice, share in God's grace, and become more like Jesus
 Christ. Let this book be your trusted companion to the NRSV
 version of The Wesley Study Bible as you grow to love God with a
 warmed heart and serve God with active hands. William H.
 Willimon is Presiding Bishop of the North Alabama Conference of

The United Methodist Church, Birmingham, Alabama Area, and
 Visiting Research Professor, Duke Divinity School, Durham, North
 Carolina. M. Kathryn Armistead, Ph.D., is an editor at Abingdon
 Press and a deacon in The United Methodist Church.

A Short History of the Methodists, in the United States of America
 Upper Room Books

Step into the pulpit in a small membership church, and you'll
 sometimes find your fair share of challenges, but you'll almost
 always find more than your share of blessings as well. Those
 blessings, and the chance for authentic, life-transforming
 preaching, are what preaching in the small membership church
 are all about. Lewis Parks knows those blessings well. For nearly
 40 years he has preached in small membership churches and
 taught others who serve in them. In this book he lays out the
 distinct roles that preaching in the small membership church calls
 on us to fill, and offers down-to-earth, substantive guidance on
 how to be the best preacher you can be in these most numerous,
 and most important, outposts of Christ's church.

Roadmap to Renewal Abingdon Press

Prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness...this is what we

commit to when we become members of The United Methodist Church, and it's a big step. But A Disciple's Path helps us look beyond membership, presenting an engaging approach to discipleship from a distinctly Wesleyan perspective. Discipleship is ongoing, so the 6-week study is perfect for new-member groups, but also works well in small groups of long-time members. It helps you develop spiritual practices, discover your unique gifts, and engage in ministry that brings transformation to your own life and to the lives of others and the world. The Daily Workbook offers six weeks of daily readings (five per week), Scripture, a message for the day, and prompts for personal reflection. Endorsements "A Disciple's Path has transformed countless new members into deeply committed disciples – people who are using their gifts, praying in new ways, worshipping regularly and not only when it's convenient, giving sacrificially of their financial resources, and seeking to be a witness to Christ's love and light in the world. I am deeply grateful for this resource and recommend it wholeheartedly." Donna Claycomb Sokol, Pastor of Mount Veron Place United Methodist Church and author of *A New Day in the City* "A Disciple's Path has the potential to revolutionize the way we view our participation in the church. Following this 'path' can transform us from wanderers into pilgrims." —Dr. Steve Harper, Retired Professor of Spiritual Formation; author of *Five Marks of a Methodist and Devotional Life in the Wesleyan Tradition* "For churches transforming their invitation to membership into an opportunity for a discipleship journey." — Lovett H. Weems, Jr., author and Distinguished Professor of Church Leadership and Director, Lewis Center for Church Leadership, Wesley Theological Seminary "A very useful explanation of the traditional Wesleyan view of Christian discipleship, strengthened in particular by its stress on the balanced approach of the Methodist way." —Dr. Richard P. Heitzenrater, Duke University Divinity School

Consuming Mission Abingdon Press

40 Days with the Holy Spirit will inspire you to encounter God in fresh and surprising ways, with 40 insightful, well-planned 20-30 minute daily exercises original prayers that capture each day's insight into the deep, spiritual work of the Holy Spirit.

The Big Influence of Small Things Abingdon Press

A convenient and affordable Advent devotional for the entire church. *Advent: A Calendar of Daily Devotions 2023* provides daily devotions for Christians as they prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ. This annual favorite is a wonderful resource for churches to give to each family to emphasize the importance of the Advent of our Lord. Each day's reading, from Sunday November 26 to Christmas Day, is based on the Revised Common Lectionary and includes the Scripture, a short devotion, and a brief prayer or practice, and it's printed with a larger font for ease of reading.

Guidelines Small Membership Church Abingdon Press

This handbook encourages short-term mission volunteers to reflect on the reasons why they engage in mission and how they plan and prepare to be more intentional. It helps volunteers shape the stories of their mission experiences in a way that enhances their personal and spiritual journeys.

Congregational Revitalization Through Small Group Ministry at Cokesbury United Methodist Church Abingdon Press

Prayer nurtures our faith and encourages spiritual growth. This thematic Bible study calls individuals and small groups to a deeper life of prayer during the season of Lent. It guides readers to spiritual transformation and application of Bible study to everyday, practical life experience. By coming near the cross through prayer, we can know and imitate heart of Christ. This thematic Bible study is designed to be used by individuals and small groups during the Lent 2016 season. In addition to the main

content, each chapter offers questions for reflection and discussion, a brief prayer, and a focus for the week. The focus emerges from the chapter content and encourages readers to engage in a spiritual practice or do something specific that will help them grow in faith. On the whole, this thematic seasonal Bible study series is designed for transformation and application of Bible study to everyday, practical life experience.

Preaching in the Small Membership Church Wipf and Stock Publishers

From the time the Wise Men came to bring gifts, Christmas has been a time of giving gifts to our loved ones, to the less fortunate, to the church, to favorite charities, to family, to friends, and even to our pets. In the best spirit of Christmas we give and receive Christmas gifts, remembering the greatest Christmas gift of all...God's gift of the Christ Child, God's gift to us of a Savior. As we give and receive Christmas gifts, it is incredibly important to remember that the best Christmas gifts are wrapped in heaven. Unfortunately, sometimes we concentrate so much on the gifts we want to give to and receive from each other that we miss the special gifts Christmas has for us. Christmas has some amazing gifts for us, but the truth is that we need the miracle of God's grace to see them, feel them, hear them, wrap our arms around them, and celebrate them. This study asks a very personal question: "What are the gifts you would really like to receive from Christmas this year?" And that is what this book is all about: our thoughts and ruminations about the amazing, life-changing gifts Christmas has for us! This Advent study has five sessions--one for each Sunday of Advent and one for Christmas. The Leader Guide is designed to be used alongside the DVD. It enables a small group leader to facilitate a weekly discussion about All I Want for Christmas using the five DVD sessions as its starting point. Questions and activities guide group participants to discuss and understand each chapter in greater depth. The DVD and Leader Guide are not a substitute for the book, but a guide for discussing the book in small groups.

The Wesleyan Journey Pastor Guide Abingdon Press

The author hopes to entertain you with these 101 short articles. You may laugh (or cry) at the stories about Gooseberry the cat, Max the dog, and a possum that was far too good at playing dead. But all of the articles in this book are essentially about the gospel. They push us to see that God is not just real, but accessible. There are numerous stories about people who have had what William James called "business with God." You will read accounts of profound religious experiences, including near-death experiences. There are moving stories of conversion and dramatic accounts of divine intervention. And there are articles here about the logic of faith and the relationship between science and religion. You will be told in these pages that faith makes sense and science and religion are ultimately one. If you are a skeptic about God, or if you believe in a do-nothing God far removed from our lives, this book may challenge you. The cumulative impact of these 101 short articles could overwhelm your skepticism. You may come to agree with the author that God is not just real—and accessible—but obviously so.

"One Small Step," First United Methodist Church, Carson City, Nevada, 1859-1969 Abingdon Press

The vast majority of United Methodist churches are small membership churches that can be and are vital places of ministry that matter. Most are situated in areas where there are people outside any faith community and have great potential for ministry. This Guideline will help you be an effective leader in your smaller church. This is one of the twenty-six Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation 2017-2020 that cover church leadership areas including Church Council and Small Membership Church; the administrative areas of Finance and Trustees; and

ministry areas focused on nurture, outreach, and witness including Worship, Evangelism, Stewardship, Christian Education, age-level ministries, Communications, and more.

Back on the Farm Wipf and Stock Publishers

Pastor and author Matt Rawle is on a mission. He sees Christ all around him—in books, movies, TV shows, rock music—and he wants to share what he sees. As Matt says, "God offers the raw ingredients, and 'culture' is whatever we cook up." In *The Salvation of Doctor Who*, pastor and author Matt Rawle draws on the long-running TV show and cult favorite Doctor Who to chart the intersection of faith and science. Chapters include "Bigger on the Inside," "God and Time and God's Time," "The Oldest Question in the Universe," and "The Sonic Screwdriver Is Mightier Than the Sword." This Leader Guide contains everything needed to guide a group through the Participant Book and DVD. It includes session plans and discussion questions, as well as multiple format options. *The Salvation of Doctor Who* is part of The Pop in Culture Series of Bible studies in which Matt Rawle stirs up a tasty gumbo of insight, humor, and inspiration based on some of your favorite pop culture classics. A Participant Book, a DVD featuring four sessions with the author, and a Worship Resources Flash Drive also are available for group study.

United Methodist Church, Laurens, Iowa Abingdon Press

This project was an attempt to explore the importance of small group ministries in which Jesus Himself participated by implementing a small group system into the life style of Cokesbury. Through this project, I wanted people at Cokesbury United Methodist Church to understand the potential for small group ministries and show how small groups can change congregational vitality. The intention of this project is to help participants open their hearts and find the joy of meeting Jesus Christ. The scope of this Doctor of Ministry Project was limited to 12 members of the Bennett Sunday school. Participants met once a week during the season of Lent. In this small group, participants were asked to develop a deep and personal relationship with one another and with God to support their Christian life and faith. In the small group meeting, the participants prayed with one another and sought God together. Through this project, they listened to others about how God was influencing their lives in a small group. Through this project, I witnessed the joy on the participants' faces when they listened to each other's faith journey about how God was influencing their lives in small groups. Later in our evaluation of the project, the participants said, "It brought warmth to my heart," "Bible study uplifts," "It has helped me stay spiritually focused," "It was an awesome fellowship," "This is a very positive group because of the spiritual fellowship." I pray that small group ministries at Cokesbury will continue to offer a more intense and personal encounter of faith and grace within the context of mutual encouragement, love, and care. I also pray that a small group ministry at Cokesbury United Methodist Church will help revitalize the congregation and offer an opportunity for Cokesbury to grow deeper in our love for God and change the people's lives as Henry Cloud witnessed in his book *Making Small Groups Work*.

Go Forth, Christian Soul Abingdon Press

The mission of The United Methodist Church is to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." In order to carry out this mission, The United Methodist Church has defined seven pathways of ministry: developing new churches, transforming existing congregations, ending racism through expanding racial and ethnic ministries, teaching the Wesleyan model of discipleship, strengthening clergy and lay leadership, reaching and transforming the lives of new generations, and eliminating poverty in community with the poor. The United Methodist Council on Korean Ministries/Korean Ministry Plan has a

vision to strengthen small group ministries for the local church to fulfill the mission of The United Methodist Church. The Korean Ministry Plan partnered with the National Association of Korean United Methodists to develop training material for small group ministry leaders that incorporated both Wesleyan tradition and Korean spirituality. This material was developed with the purpose of leading churches to confess Jesus Christ as Lord and for individuals to realize their individual spiritual gifts so that they could serve the local church and community better. Thus, we United Methodists may be disciples of Jesus Christ who experience the power of the Holy Spirit to transform the world. We welcome you into this journey of discipleship in small group ministry. We are genuinely looking forward to meeting you.

—Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, President of the Korean Ministry Plan

This We Believe Leader's Guide Abingdon Press

Call Him by name. He's there beside you. That's His promise. God has always been beside Madlyn. His Word is her guiding voice. From early spiritual formation as a youth and her time as a nurse, to running a dairy farm and becoming an Ordained Minister and Pastor, His call has held her through life's challenges and joys. *Back on the Farm* is an account of Madlyn's time as a dairy farmer, and the many events and experiences that have shaped her life in service to others. Each short story and song is a lesson of hope and light, as God lifts Madlyn and her family into a higher understanding of His love.

All I Want For Christmas Leader Guide Abingdon Press

Short-term mission trips are commonplace in American church life. Yet their growth and practice have largely been divorced from theological education, seminary training, and mission studies. *Consuming Mission* takes important steps in offering a theological assessment of the practice of STM and tools for subsequent mission training. Using relevant academic studies and original focus-group interviews, Haynes offers important insights into this ubiquitous practice. While carefully examining the biblical and historical foundations for mission, *Consuming Mission* engages more contemporary movements like the *Missio Dei*, *Fresh Expressions*, the *Emergent Church*, and *Third-Wave Mission* movements that have helped shape mission. The unique role of United Methodist mission is illustrated through its historical roots and contemporary expression in the ubiquitous STM movement in the United States. Haynes uses original field research data to gather the implicit and explicit theologies of lay and clergy participants. Cultural influences are significantly influencing STM participants as they use their time, money, sacrifice, and service, applied in the name of mission, to purchase a personal growth experience commonly sought by pilgrims. The resulting tensions from mixing mission, pilgrimage, and tourism creates are explored. Haynes offers important steps to move the practice away from using mission for personal edification.

40 Days with the Holy Spirit Abingdon Press

Leading a small group on prayer can be daunting. After all, it's not easy to be an expert on the subject. *When You Pray as a Small Group* is a resource that will help leaders guide their groups through developing a deeper prayer life. Used in conjunction with Rueben P. Job's *When You Pray*, leaders are provided with prayer activity ideas, example sessions, and five session templates for groups with different needs and interests: Discussion-based groups Activity-based groups Introspective groups Arts-focused groups Habit Breaker groups Through this study, not only will your group be encouraged as a whole, each individual's prayer life will be enriched and strengthened.

Our Strangely Warmed Hearts Upper Room Books

Take a journey together with others from your local church—a road trip that will help you rediscover your true mission. This

newly revised and updated edition of Roadmap to Renewal will serve as a vital resource enabling you to reconnect to your mission area. Use the step-by-step process in a small group to come up with a Ministry Action Plan for your community of faith. Know your community. Know your mission. Know your strengths and challenges. Know where you are going. Reach people with the good news of Jesus Christ!

John Leader Guide FriesenPress

From the time the Wise Men came to bring gifts, Christmas has been a time of giving gifts to our loved ones, to the less fortunate, to the church, to favorite charities, to family, to friends, and even to our pets. In the best spirit of Christmas we give and receive Christmas gifts, remembering the greatest Christmas gift of all...God's gift of the Christ Child, God's gift to us of a Savior. As we give and receive Christmas gifts, it is incredibly important to remember that the best Christmas gifts are wrapped in heaven. Unfortunately, sometimes we concentrate so much on the gifts we want to give to and receive from each other that we miss the special gifts Christmas has for us. Christmas has some amazing gifts for us, but the truth is that we need the miracle of God's grace to see them, feel them, hear them, wrap our arms around them, and celebrate them. This study asks a very personal question: "What are the gifts you would really like to receive from Christmas this year?" And that is what this book is all about: our thoughts and ruminations about the amazing, life-changing gifts Christmas has for us! This Advent study has five sessions: one for each Sunday of Advent and one for Christmas. Leaders and participants work from the same book, which includes readings for reflection, a host of age appropriate teaching-and-learning activities that groups can choose to fit their needs and setting, and a short devotional reading for each day of the Advent season.

A Short History of West Creek United Methodist Church, Comprising One-hundred Years in Methodism in Ocean County, with Details Also of Growth and Development in the Township Itself Abingdon Press

Anyone who has done children's sermons will sooner or later hear from someone that I learn more from the children's sermon than I do from the real sermon. And indeed, the truths of scripture are so simple that even a child can understand them. So it's no accident that children's sermons have become a central part of the worship service in many churches. Brett Blair and Tim Carpenter offer a year's worth of object lessons that engage children and impart profound lessons for all ages. Two sermons are provided for each Sunday in Cycle A of the Revised Common Lectionary, one based on the Second Lesson and one based on the Gospel. The messages are structured in two parts: the lesson uses an object to draw out active responses from children, then the application connects that object to the assigned scripture reading. Each message includes a clear statement of its exegetical aim.

40 Days with Wesley Wipf and Stock Publishers

As John Wesley discovered his true spiritual identity, he experienced a strangely warmed heart. Through poignant stories and well-reasoned principles, Karen Oliveto discloses why and how spiritual renewal and a personal call to ministry emerge in

the strangely warmed hearts of lesbian and gay Christians. In The United Methodist Church (and other Christian denominations), it is difficult or impossible for lesbian, gay, transsexual, and bisexual clergy or laity to become a visible and outward channel for God's saving grace. This book traces the history of the church's struggle with homosexuality, highlighting critical incidents in the culture and church polity which shape the church's response. The issues are deeply rooted in the way God's people understand scriptures, which are interpreted as a means of grace for some and as a rule-book for others. This book includes first-person narratives of LGBTQ persons faithfully serving in a denomination that denies their calls and—in some cases—their presence. These stories will show how the coming out process is deeply spiritual as one grows into an authentic, God-created and graced self. "You are the one who created my innermost parts; you knit me together while I was still in my mother's womb. I give thanks to you that I was marvelously set apart. Your works are wonderful—I know that very well." Psalm 139:13-14 (CEB) "Our Strangely Warmed Hearts is a breath of fresh air in the study of the United Methodist struggle and intense debate regarding human sexuality. Karen Oliveto lives in faithful witness and serves people with the heart of Christian leadership."—Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church. "Karen Oliveto offers a compelling window into the steadfast faith and the resilience of the LGBTQ Christian movement in the United States. After offering an extraordinary history of the LGBTQ equality movement in our society and in The United Methodist Church, she rightly asks, 'Is there any other group that we would marginalize in this way?' I wholeheartedly recommend Karen Oliveto's new book to everyone who is affected by the debate over the sacred worth and place of LGBTQ people in our lives and churches. This book inspires hope." —Michael J. Adey, Ph.D., Director, Global Faith and Justice Project, San Francisco Theological Seminary, San Anselmo, CA "Bishop Oliveto's story mirrors the experience of many LGBTQ ministers who are serving the Body of Christ openly, and not in the shadows. The integrity, courage, and deep faith of God's LGBTQ people who are called into ministry have enriched the church and encouraged the outsiders who were always welcome at Jesus' table."—Andy Lang, Executive Director, Open and Affirming Coalition, United Church of Christ "I loved it! It drew me in immediately and kept me strapped in on what I knew would be a roller coaster of painful history, sprinkled triumphs, and then stories that broke my heart, gave me cheer, and brought tears to my eyes. Bishop Oliveto takes readers on a fascinating trip through LGBTQ history, and into the often contentious collision with mainstream religion...and then brings it all together through the personal stories that make our past and present come alive! I applaud Bishop Oliveto's book and will highly recommend it to the faithful and faith curious of all religions."—The Reverend Marian Edmonds-Allen, Executive Director, Parity "[Bishop Karen Oliveto] is sharing the love of Jesus, and meeting people where they are, no matter who they are, and no matter what they think about her. She loves them." —Kent Ingram, senior pastor of First United Methodist Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado.