

[HOMEPAGE]

For families of junior soldiers

THIS WEEK'S TOPIC:

Holiness— The Wesleys

MEMORY VERSE:

1 Peter 1:15-16 (NIV)

"The one who chose you is holy. So you should be holy in all that you do. It is written, *'Be holy, because I am holy.'*"

The memory verse for the week is included on each HOMEPAGE. Help your child review it during the week. The portion of the memory verse printed in *italics* is the portion of the verse for younger junior soldiers to memorize.

PARENT POINT:

Talk to your child about ways that they can serve God. God wants all of His children to share His love. Help them think of practical ways to show God's love.



TODAY IN JUNIOR SOLDIERS the children continued the unit on notable Christians from Church history. Today they learned about the life and ministry of John Wesley.

John Wesley was born on June 17, 1703, as the 15th child of Samuel Wesley, a British clergyman. John Wesley was educated at the University of Oxford. In 1729, he went to Oxford to serve as a fellow at Lincoln College.

He formed a club with his brother Charles and friends. Members of The Holy Club adhered strictly to religious precepts and practices, earning the name "Methodists" from their schoolmates.

In 1735, having both been ordained, John and his younger brother Charles traveled to the American colony of Georgia. John served as a missionary; his brother Charles served as the secretary to Governor Oglethorpe. Within a few years they returned to England and started a movement to bring awareness to the saving love of God.

On April 2, 1739, John Wesley preached a sermon at an open air meeting. The reaction convinced him that preaching outdoors was the most effective way to reach large groups of people. He placed emphasis on inner religion and the assurance that each person was accepted as a child of God.

On May 1, 1739, John Wesley and a group of his followers formed the first Methodist society in London. In 1784, John Wesley issued rules and regulations for the guidance of the Methodist societies even though they were still part of the Church of England. Separation from the Church of England didn't come until after John Wesley's death on March 2, 1791.

Wesley traveled approximately 5,000 miles per year, mostly on horseback, preaching as many as four or five sermons a day. He worked to improve the reading habits of the public, to help people reduce debt, and to build medical clinics. At the time of his death, he was one of the best known and most loved men in England.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOME

This lesson introduced junior soldiers to John Wesley, the father of Methodism. They learned about how The Salvation Army comes from the holiness tradition.