

# BRMC Small Group Study: Holy Spirit Session 7

## Addendum to Leader's Guide

Please note that the suggestions below are not model answers but to help guide your study. Feel free to adapt the questions for your group.

### Scripture Passage:

Focus: 1 Peter 1:13-2:3

Supplementary: 1 Thessalonians 5:23 and 4:7-8

### Open to the Spirit:

Focus chapter: 18

Supplementary chapters: 17 and 20

## Addendum to Question 7

7. How might the small group, as a community or family in Christ play a role in living a holy life, day to day?

- The following message from the Rev Benjamin Fong (below) is intended to assist you in clarifying and understanding the Wesleyan Class and Band meetings:

Dear Leader,

Here's an addendum to the study guide for week 7, which clarifies the points highlighted in question 7.

The Early Methodists would meet in mixed-gender groups of 12 called "classes", and this was the primary means they sought to grow in holiness. All Methodists were required to attend the Class Meeting regularly, and during this meeting they would ask each other: "How does your soul prosper?" In modern terms, it's an inquiry into their spiritual life. Are we ordering our lives around the Wesleyan Rule of Life? Are we growing in holiness? This was how they would share their lives together and spur each other to pursue holiness.

Methodists were also encouraged to join a Band Meeting, in addition to the Class Meeting, but this was not compulsory. Bands were single-gender groups of up to 7 persons, and they would ask the questions listed in Question 7 of the guide. This was considerably more intense, and a much higher degree of accountability and sharing was required, but it was also where they experienced the most freedom from sin.

There are differences between Classes and Bands in terms of goals, but within our context, the point remains that we cannot grow in holiness alone – it's what we refer to as a "social holiness". I encourage your group to consider how you may model the holy love shown within the Class Meetings, and for those who wish, to go even deeper in a more confidential setting like the Bands.