

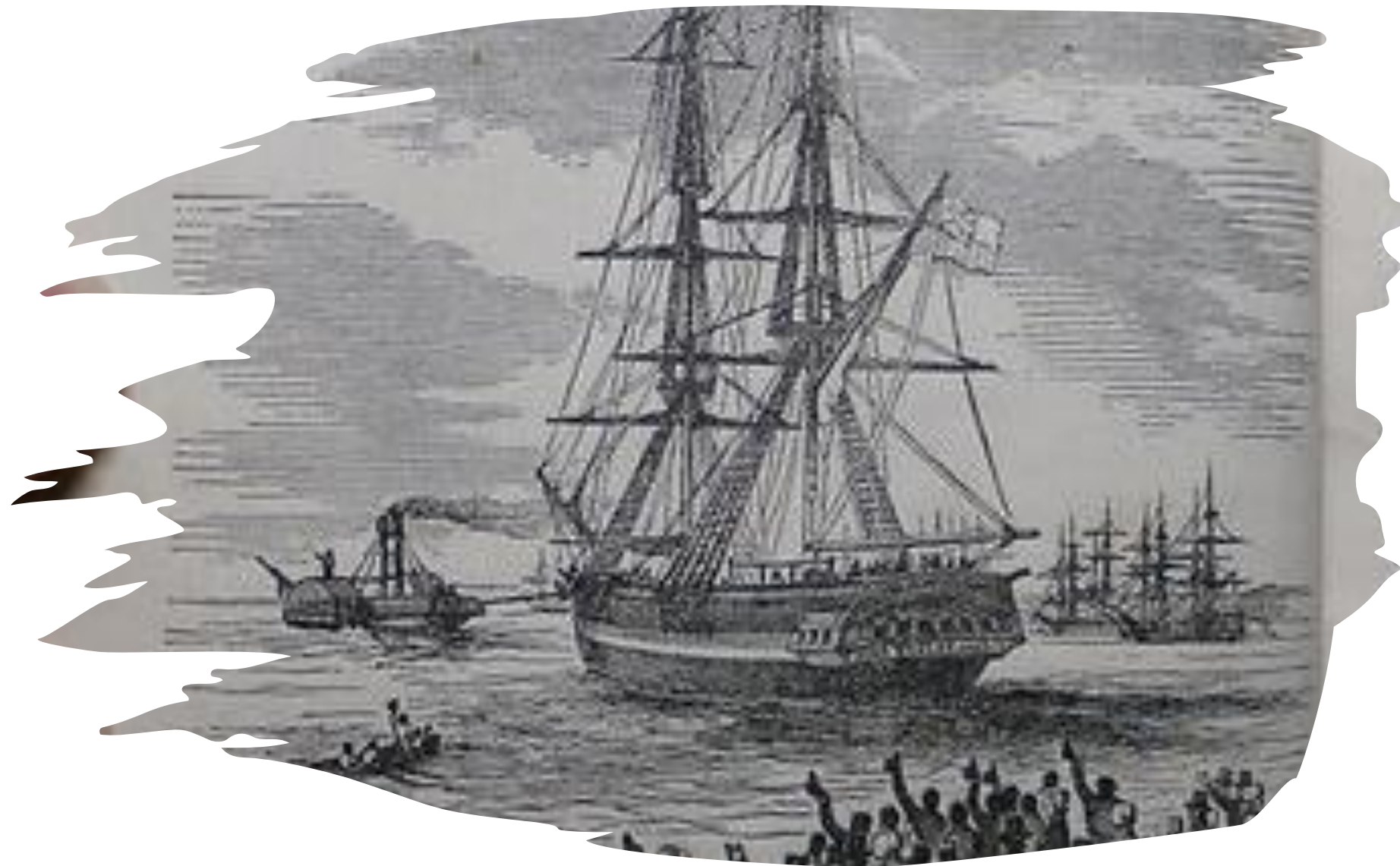
John Wesley

Founder of the Methodist Movement

Part 3



John Wesley was missing something. Before his American voyage, he wrote: "My chief motive is the hope of saving my own soul. I hope to learn the true sense of the Gospel of Christ by preaching it to the heathen."



**He set out in October 1735, on a ship carrying
80 English colonists and 26 Moravians.**



THE JOHN WESLEY MISSIONARY SHIP.

*Engraved by George Carter
H. Coltham & Co. London*

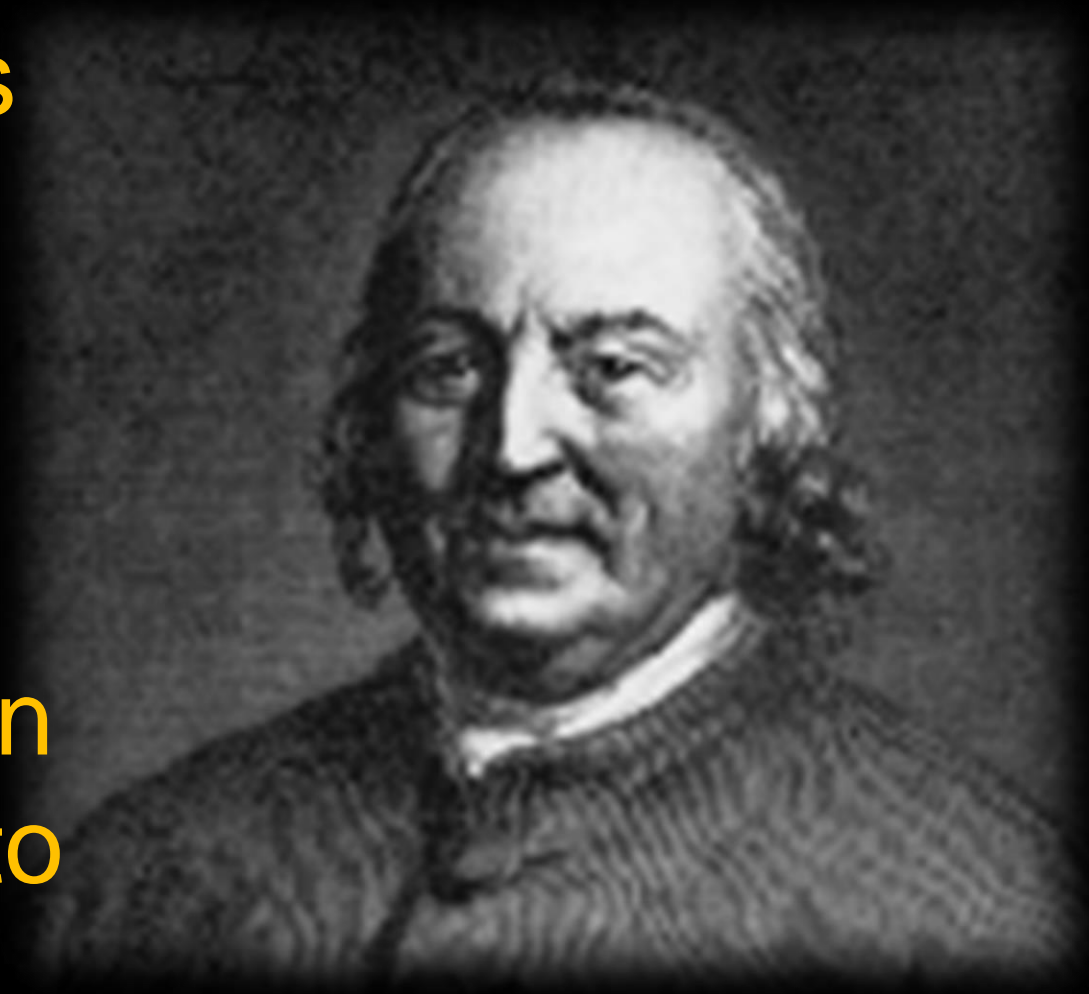




"Weren't you afraid?" he asked one of the Moravians after the storm was over.

"Weren't your women and children afraid?"

The Moravian gently responded, "No. Our women and children are not afraid to die."



After the ship landed, Wesley continued similar conversations with a Moravian pastor named Spangenberg, who launched some challenging questions of his own. "Have you the witness within yourself?" the pastor asked John. "Does the Spirit of God witness with your spirit that you are a child of God?" Wesley didn't know what to say. "Do you know Jesus Christ?" the pastor pressed. "I know he is the Savior of the world." True," the Moravian responded, "but do you know he has saved you?"

From
THE JOURNAL OF JOHN WESLEY

"FRI, 6, - ABOUT EIGHT IN THE MORNING
I FIRST SET MY FOOT ON AMERICAN
GROUND. IT WAS A SMALL UNINHABITED
ISLAND, ...OVER AGAINST TYBEE, CALLED
BY THE ENGLISH PEEPER ISLAND.
MR. OGLETHORPE LED US THROUGH
THE MOORISH LAND ON THE SHORE
TO A RISING GROUND, ...WE CHOSE AN
OPEN PLACE SURROUNDED WITH MYRTLES,
BAYS, AND CEDARS, WHICH SHELTERED
US BOTH FROM THE SUN AND WIND, AND
CALLED OUR LITTLE FLOCK TOGETHER
TO PRAYERS."



JOHN WESLEY
(1703-1791)



On February 6, 1736, John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, landed at Peeper (now Cockspur) Island near here and there preached to his fellow voyagers his first sermon on American soil. A monument has been erected on Cockspur Island to commemorate the event.

Sent to Georgia by the Trustees as missionary, Wesley was the third minister of the Established Church in the colony. He preached in the scattered settlements of Georgia, journeying thither by boat and over Indian trails. Wesley returned to England in 1737 after differences with his parishioners. "I shook off the dust of my feet and left Georgia," he wrote, "having preached the Gospel there (not as I ought, but as I was able) one year and nearly nine months."

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GEORGIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

1953

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The colony of Georgia was quite new. James Oglethorpe led a group of settlers there in 1733, intending to establish it as a non-slavery colony. John Wesley was asked to serve there as a minister to the English settlers and a missionary to the friendly native tribes in the area. John served in Savannah and Frederica.





He fell in love with Sophia Hopkey, the niece of the chief magistrate, and courted her for some months. Perhaps fearing that this relationship would inhibit his ministry, he decided not to marry her, and she soon wed someone else. This caused Wesley great pain, and he took it out on her,



publicly rebuking her for various sins and refusing to offer her communion. Her new husband took Wesley to court for this, and soon others were filing complaints as well. In December 1737, he left for England.



In the America's, Wesley tried out his group learning model, fashioned after Holy Club. Wesley soon had entire congregations divided into smaller groups, or bands. These met regularly for exhortation, instruction, and correction. For these groups Wesley chose faithful men with whom he met on Sunday afternoons for more intensive training.



...to advise the more serious...into a little society, and agree to meet once or twice a week, in order to reprove, instruct,

and exhort one another. To select out of these smaller number for a more intimate union with each other...to do every Sunday in the afternoon.
(John Wesley Journal)

A long-time friend of the Wesleys, George Whitefield was coming to Georgia to oversee an orphanage in John's parish. But over the next decade, Whitefield would ride on horseback throughout America, preaching in any church that would have him—and often in open fields.



Whitefield was a major player in what became known as the Great Awakening.

In many ways, Whitefield picked up where Wesley had left off.



Wesley saw his American adventure as an utter failure. "I went to America to convert the Indians," he wrote later, "but, O! who shall convert me?"



THE
PROBABLE SITE, WHERE, ON MAY 24, 1738

JOHN WESLEY

"FELT HIS HEART STRANGELY
THIS EXPERIENCE OF GRACE WAS
OF METHODISM.

THIS TABLET IS GRATEFULLY PLACED
BY THE DREW THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
MADISON, NEW JERSEY, U.S.A.
AUGUST 1926.

THE
PROBABLE SITE, WHERE, ON MAY 24, 1738

JOHN WESLEY

"FELT HIS HEART STRANGELY WARMED,"
THIS EXPERIENCE OF GRACE WAS THE BEGINNING
OF METHODISM.

THIS TABLET IS GRATEFULLY PLACED HERE BY
THE DREW THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
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MADISON, NEW JERSEY, U.S.A.
AUGUST 1926.



John kept in touch with some of the Moravians he had met on his trip to America. At their invitation, on May 24, 1738, he attended a religious meeting on Aldersgate Street in London.

John Wesley Study Guide - Pt #3

- 1. What was John Wesley's chief purpose for going to the Colonies?**
- 2. What happened on the way to America and why was that significant?**
- 3. Who were the Moravian's and how did they change or inspire John Wesley's life?**
- 4. What happened with Sophia Hopkey, and why was that important turning point for John?**

5. How did John Wesley teach, and “advise” in the Americas?

6. What friend joined John in the Americas and what did he do?

7. What is John’s famous quote about being in the America’s?

8. Most interesting thing you learned about John Wesley’s trip to Georgia?