

SPECIAL
SUNDAY

UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY
SERMON STARTER



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®



UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY SERMON STARTER

This sermon starter is part of the **United Methodist Student Day pastor and leader kit** and connects with the theme **“Restoring a Spirit of Wisdom.”** You are encouraged to adapt it for your context and integrate it into a broader sermon message.

Many of us in the U.S. celebrated Thanksgiving this week and perhaps had college students who came home for the holiday. It can be startling and wonderful to see people whom we knew as children come home a few months later filled with new wisdom as young adults. On this United Methodist Student Day, we have an opportunity to come around these students and other young adults in our extended church family with love and encouragement.

In today’s scripture lesson, Paul writes to the church in Ephesus, expressing his gratitude for their faith and their love for one another. He prays that they may have a revelation of God’s power and the greatness of Divine love through Jesus Christ.

**“I PRAY THAT THE GOD OF
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
THE FATHER OF GLORY,
WILL GIVE YOU A SPIRIT OF
WISDOM AND REVELATION THAT
MAKES GOD KNOWN TO YOU.”**

—EPHESIANS 1:17 (CEB)

Paul’s prayer for the Ephesians is a reminder of the importance of seeking wisdom and understanding. As a church, we are raising children to learn and grow, to explore the world around them and to gain a deeper understanding of the mysteries of God and creation.



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In a community of faith, they are nurtured to approach their studies not just for personal success and accomplishments but as young Christian leaders who support one another and encourage others to pursue their dreams.

Paul's message of gratitude and encouragement is centered in Christ's love for us. We are part of a larger community of disciples who are all working together to build up God's kingdom. We are connected through The United Methodist Church as the very body of Christ.

How can we be role models to the next generation in a way that supports one another and lifts one another up? When we offer a helping hand to those who are struggling, lend an ear to those who need to be heard and offer words of encouragement to those who are facing difficult challenges, we offer a visible witness to the invisible grace of God's love.

And while godly wisdom does not necessarily come from books, equipping young Christian leaders with a strong faith foundation, encouraging them in their studies and walking alongside them can "open the

eyes of their heart" during this transformational and often challenging time. One of the ways we do this on United Methodist Student Day is to invest in them with a special offering that provides scholarships to qualified students.

Our support helps students to gain knowledge and wisdom that equips them to make a positive impact in the world around them. All of us, as lifelong learners, are called to serve others, to make a difference in the lives of those around us and to contribute to the greater good of society.

Paul's message of God's power and love reminds us that our success is not solely dependent on our own abilities or accomplishments. Our greatest wisdom and understanding come through our faith in Christ and our discipleship of his teachings.

God's love and power are with us always. We have a sacred responsibility to use our knowledge and our talents to serve others and to make a positive impact in the world around us. As representatives of Christ's body, we share his love with those around us.



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