



Connect to Mount Pisgah

Leader's Guide

Week 1

Topic: Who is Mount Pisgah?

Focus for this class: In addition to sharing about MP, the focus of this 3-week class is relationship building and connections. Try to make a personal connection with each participant and admire something about their life. Help them to feel valued as a creation of God and attendee at MP. If they are shy or skeptical, do not push, but still look for ways to validate them and help them be known.

Pework Summary:

There are no teaching videos for this class, so no scripts to review. By design, this week is especially short on content and long on discussion. There is, however, a short video of the history of Mount Pisgah.

Please review the video before your first meeting.

Look over the Timeline featured on pages 4 & 5 of the Participants' Guide. There are also highlights of the timeline provided below.

Tough questions prep: Someone may ask about the current division in the UMC regarding human sexuality. Explain that a lot is still unknown and being discussed. Encourage anyone wanting to know more to schedule a meeting with Pastor Steve Wood:
Swood@mountpisgah.org

Class Timeline:

	Estimated time
1 Introductions	15 min
2 History of MP Video	2:47 min
3 Review history of MP	5 to 10 min
4 Discussion Questions	20 min
5 Takeaways	1 min
6 Prayer	1 min
7 Invitation for next week	1 min

1. Introduction

Introduce yourself (how long you have been at our Church), what is special to you and share about why you serve at Mount Pisgah.

Introduce the content for this class (in your own words):

Thank you for making the commitment to attend our Connect to Mount Pisgah class. We are excited God has brought you to this church and we look forward to walking alongside you in your faith journey. It is through our active involvement in the Body of Christ that we can grow and mature in our Christian journey. Our prayer for you is that this church becomes a place where you can find the encouragement and support you need to navigate life each day.

Becoming a member of this local church gives us the chance to invest in you and help you grow in your life as a disciple of Jesus Christ. We look forward to being with you on this three-week journey, to invest in you and to help you grow in your faith and become a witness to others about the work of Christ in your life.

Go around the room and ask each person “What brings you to Mount Pisgah?” (pages 2-3).

Do not spend the class time trying to convince them of what we have or try to meet that. But validate their desire and encourage them to journey on in our classes to learn more about those topics. If someone has an unusual or specific need, try to connect with them after class to help them.

2. Play the short video of the History of Mount Pisgah. (2:47 min)

3. Briefly cover the history of Mount Pisgah (pages 4 and 5):

Mount Pisgah has been loving God and people since 1831. Notice in the highlights of our 189-year history the focus on serving and loving our neighbor – the Cherokee Indians, early

frontiersmen, those devastated by war, the local community, and the Spanish speaking community.

The timeline below is on page 5 of the participant's guide. Briefly touch on some key events in the church history.

- 1750s John and Charles Wesley start a Bible study with fellow Oxford University students who were methodical in their way of life and became known as Methodists.
- 1760s Methodism arrived in America, led by Francis Asbury.
- 1784 A conference of Methodist preachers formed the Methodist Episcopal Church.
- 1780s – 1960s Several churches and denominations were formed as descendants of the Methodist Episcopal Church.
- 1831 Ms. Martin's one room log house, Martin's Chapel, was one of six circuit churches in the Georgia frontier.
- Late 1860s a new brick church was built on Jones Bridge road to replace the original chapel burned by Union troops. The church began to grow as it served those devastated by war.
- 1920s Another one room frame house was built near the cemetery on Nesbit Ferry Rd.
- 1940s New sanctuary building was completed.
- 1962 An educational building was added.
- 1967 A brick home was moved to the church property to serve as a parsonage.
- April 23, 1968 The United Methodist Church was created from the fragmented segments of the Methodist Episcopal Church.
- 1986 South Hall Worship and Family Life Center allows Mount Pisgah to more than triple its membership.
- 1986 The preschool program began.
- 1988-90 A new education building and family life center was added to South Hall.
- 1999 The church purchased 17 acres on Nesbit Ferry Rd.
- 2002 North campus building is completed, and worship moved to this sanctuary.
- 2002 Mount Pisgah en Español began on south campus.
- 2010 The Underground student center was added on north campus.
- 2017 All church activities are now on north campus and we continue to update and adapt to meet the needs of our congregation.
- 2020 The United Methodist Church is one of the largest protestant churches in the world.

4. Discussion questions (page 7 of the participant book):

1. *What interested or surprised you about the history of Mount Pisgah?*
2. *What are some of the key elements of any church that have lasted over 190 years?*
3. *Ms. Martin served Cherokee Indians, then those devastated by the Civil War. As the demographic around Mount Pisgah changed, the church adapted. Who do you see as the focus of serving and loving our neighbors today?*

4. *Can you imagine life at Mount Pisgah in another 50 years? 100 years? Is it daunting to imagine how the church will keep up with modern life? What do you think we'll need to do to remain relevant?*

5. Closing/ Takeaways: (page 8)

You are important to the overall Church of Jesus Christ and to our church. It is people, people like you, who make the church special and lasting, eternal change.

6. Prayer: Instead of including a lesson devoted to how to pray, class leaders will model how to pray each of the six weeks of Connect to God. Before you close in prayer, briefly explain P.R.A.Y. method of prayer (praise, repent, ask and yield) and lead participants through this format. Then pray over them.

PRAISE	Matthew 6:9	"Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.'"
REPENT	Matthew 6:12	"And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."
ASK	Matthew 6:11&13	"Give us this day our daily bread." "And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]"
YIELD	Matthew 6:10	"Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven."

Example: *Father, we praise that you are powerful and good. You created this world and us all for YOUR purpose. Please forgive us when we look to other places for our significance or when we seek own glory. Please help us to seek and follow your purpose for our lives. We trust you and your ways.*

7. Invite them back next week to learn about our mission, vision, values and how to get connected to different aspects of our Church.

