

## A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families for the week of January 21, 2024

Read the Bible passage aloud in your group meeting. This is a worship discussion guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for your meeting, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

## Warm Up

 What about gathering with the church for worship encourages you? What about gathering together is difficult? Why?

## I Corinthians 11:17-34

<sup>17</sup> But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. 18 For. in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, <sup>19</sup> for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized. 20 When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. 21 For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. 22 What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not.

 What concerns does Paul have about the Corinthians as they gathered for worship?

<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, <sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." <sup>25</sup> In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." <sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

What is the purpose of the Lord's Supper?

## When You Come Together to Eat

<sup>27</sup> Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. <sup>28</sup> Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. <sup>29</sup> For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. <sup>30</sup> That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. <sup>31</sup> But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. <sup>32</sup> But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

 What does it mean to eat and drink in an "unworthy manner"? What are the spiritual implications of this?

<sup>33</sup> So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another—<sup>34</sup> if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home—so that when you come together it will not be for judgment. About the other things I will give directions when I come.

- What does it mean for our church to attend to the Lord's Supper in a worthy manner?
- Reflect on this week's passage together, and use it as a guide for a time of prayer.

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Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org

