

## Pray Together

**Use the first few minutes of your time together to lead your group in a focused prayer time.**

- **Praise:** Spend time praising God for who He is.
- **Repent:** Take a few moments to silently confess any sin that is lingering in your heart.
- **Ask:** Verbalize your needs and the needs of others to God.
- **Yield:** Surrender your will to God.

## Read Together

Baptism and the Lord's Supper are two ordinances that have marked Christian worship since its inception. Yet, modern believers—who sometimes celebrate the ordinances so infrequently—can often miss the depth and understanding of these acts of corporate worship. Especially the Lord's Supper.

In his book *Biblical Foundations For Baptist Churches*, professor and theologian John Hammett describes the ordinance of the Lord's Supper in these terms:

*Baptism is a one-time initiatory rite, symbolizing and sealing our commitment to Christ and His church. The Lord's Supper is a continuing rite that churches observe repeatedly. In many denominations it is the central act of worship. While it is a multifaceted event, it may best be seen as a time of renewal. ... If baptism is the wedding ceremony in which a believer publicly declares his or her commitment to Christ, the Lord's Supper is similar to an anniversary celebration in which the wedding vows are renewed.*

So whether you know it as the Lord's Supper, the Eucharist, Communion, or the Table, today we will focus in on the why behind this Biblical ordinance of remembrance.

## Discuss Together

**Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion.**

- In Baptist life, Baptism and the Lord's Supper are often described as ordinances of worship. By its definition, an ordinance of worship must symbolize the Gospel message. Explain how both of these ordinances symbolize the Gospel. Consider how passages like Romans 6, Matthew 26, and 1 Corinthians 11 might inform your understanding of the Gospel in each ordinance.
- Read Matthew 26:26-29. Discuss the significance of the context of this passage? Why might Jesus have chosen to take this moment to institute an ongoing act of worship in the lives of His followers?
- The atonement is the work Christ did in His life (His active obedience) and in His death (His substitutionary death) to earn our salvation from sin. How is the atonement of Christ foreshadowed in Matthew 26:26-29? What does Christ's atonement mean for you personally? How is the doctrine of the atonement understood through the Lord's Supper?



- The symbolism of the Lord's Supper is multifaceted and carries deep meaning and significance. Read the following passages and identify what is being symbolized or affirmed in the Lord's Supper.
  - 1 Corinthians 11:26
  - Matthew 26:26-27; 1 Corinthians 10:16
  - John 6:53-57
  - 1 Corinthians 10:17, 12:12-14
- Who may participate in the Lord's Supper? Why? Consider how passages 1 Corinthians 10-11 might inform your position.
- What is the proper atmosphere to celebrate the Lord's Supper: solemn reverence, jubilant celebration, or another? Why?
- To again quote John Hammett's *Biblical Foundations For Baptist Churches*, "The best word to describe the significance of the Lord's Supper is *renewal*. ...[In the Lord's Supper] we renew our commitment to Christ, His church, and our commitment to His mission until He comes." Take a moment to examine yourself. Either alone or within a smaller group, share your current commitment to Christ, His church, and His mission. How is God calling you to follow Him more faithfully? How do you need to be actively used for His kingdom?
- Read Matthew 5:23-24 and 1 Corinthians 11:27-28. Are there any broken relationships that you need to make right before you partake in the Lord's Supper again?

## How I must obey Christ...

- Examine yourself. As a result of this study, identify a specific area in which you need to obey Christ this week.
- How do you specifically need to obey Christ in this area this week?
- How can Jesus redeem this area? How has He proven that in Scripture?
- Who will keep you accountable to this commitment this week?

## Pray Together

Read and pray through Philippians 2:8-11.

