



Open Door Next Generation Communion Information for Kids

If your child shows interest in receiving Communion, here are a few things you might discuss together.

What is Communion?

1. Communion is a time to remember.

Communion is a time to remember what Jesus did when He died on the cross. Because He loves us so much, when He died, He gave up His Body and His Blood for us, to rescue us. During Communion, we take the “elements” which are bread and grape juice. We take a piece of bread and eat it. When we do this, we can remember Jesus’ body that was broken for us when He died on the cross. Then we take a sip of juice and drink it. When we do this, we can remember Jesus’ blood that was poured out for us when He died on the cross.

2. Communion is a time to be together.

Jesus chose to spend His “last supper” with his closest friends (disciples). We get to participate in Communion together with our family and church community. It is so good for us to be together and remember together.

3. God is with us when we go to The Table.

When we go to The Table and eat the bread and drink the juice, God is with us. We may not be able to see Him, but we can know and be sure that He is with us.

4. The Table is for anyone who is a friend of Jesus.

Anyone who believes in Jesus and loves Him can go to The Table and take Communion.

5. Communion is also called “The Table”

Sometimes here at our church, we call Communion “The Table”. We call it this because it helps us remember that we are all invited to go to the Table that Jesus has made ready for us. It might help you to imagine what it was like for the disciples to sit at the table with Jesus at the Last Supper.

Next steps:

1. Sit down with your child and read through the story of the Last Supper (You may want to use the story of “The Servant King” from *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, it’s included below.) Talk with them about what the disciples must have felt like as they shared this last meal with Jesus. Talk with them about how the Last Supper is like communion.

2. Pray with your child. Spend some time praying with them and talking to God about what Communion means and if they might be ready to take Communion.

3. Remember there is no “magic” age when kids start taking Communion.

All kids are different. Some may have questions about Communion at a younger age; others may wait until they are older. Don’t panic or worry about this, and don’t push the issue if you don’t sense they are ready.

4. Make their first Communion a special event.

Think about a few different ways you could make this event memorable and meaningful for your child. Here are a few ideas:

- a. Ask a few special family friends, grandparents, or godparents to pray over your child before they take Communion for the first time.

- b. Ask someone special to write a letter to your child to give him or her encouragement as they go to The Table for the first time.
- c. Take a picture of your child and have it framed with the date of their first Communion.
- d. Choose a symbol that reminds your child about their first communion. (Write it on a rock and put in their room, etc.)

“The Servant King”

From *The Jesus StoryBook Bible*

It was Passover, the time when God’s people remembered how God had rescued them from being slaves in Egypt. Every year they killed a lamb and ate it. “The lamb died instead of us!” they would say. But this Passover, God was getting ready for an even Greater Rescue.

Jesus and His friends were having the Passover meal together in an upstairs room. But Jesus’ friends were arguing. What about? They were arguing about stinky feet. Stinky feet? Yes, that’s right. Stinky feet.

(Now the thing about feet back then was that people didn’t wear shoes; they only wore sandals, which might not sound unusual, except that the streets in those days were dirty – and I don’t mean just dusty dirty – I mean really stinky dirty. With all those cows and horses everywhere, you can imagine the stuff on the street that ended up on their feet!)

So anyway, someone had to wash away the dirt, but it was a dreadful job. Who on earth would ever dream of volunteering to do it?

Only the lowliest servant.

“I’m not the servant!” Peter said.

“Nor am I!” said Matthew.

Quietly, Jesus got up from the table, took off his robe, picked up a basin of water, knelt down, and started to wash His friends’ feet.

“You can’t,” Peter said. He didn’t understand about Jesus being the Servant King.

“If you don’t let me wash away the dirt, Peter,” Jesus said, “you can’t be close to me.”

Jesus knew that what people needed most was to be clean on the inside. All the dirt on their feet was nothing compared to the sin inside their hearts.

“Then wash me, Lord!” Peter said, tears filling his eyes. “All of me!”

One by one, Jesus washed everyone’s feet.

“I am doing this because I love you,” Jesus explained. “Do this for one another.”

Now one of Jesus’ friends had made a bad plan. No one else knew what the bad plan was. But Jesus knew - and so did Judas. Judas was going to help the Leaders capture Jesus – for 30 pieces of silver.

“Go on, Judas,” Jesus said. And Judas got up from the meal, left the room and walked out into the night.

Then Jesus picked up some bread and broke it. He gave it to his friends. He picked up a cup of wine and thanked God for it. He poured it out and shared it.

“My body is like this bread. It will break,” Jesus told them. “This cup of wine is like my blood. It will pour out.”

“But this is how God will rescue the whole world. My life will break and God’s broken world will mend. My heart will tear apart – and your hearts will heal. Just as the Passover lamb died, so now I will die instead of you. My blood will wash away all of your sins. And you’ll be clean on the inside – in your hearts.”

“So whenever you eat and drink, remember,” Jesus said, “I’ve rescued you!”

Jesus knew it was nearly time for Him to leave the world and to go back to God.

“I won’t be with you long,” He said. “You are going to be very sad. But God’s Helper will come. And then you’ll be filled up with a Forever Happiness that won’t ever leave. So don’t be afraid. You are my friends and I love you.”

Then they sang their favorite song. And walked up to their favorite place, an olive garden.