

Essentials: Communion

AUGUST 29, 2021

PREPARATION.

Study

Matthew 26:26-30, Hebrews 4:15; 1 Corinthians 11:27-33; Ephesians 2:13-18

Pray

Pray for our pastors and this week's message, the upcoming group time, your group members, and their openness to God's Word.

Landing Point

Communion is more than just eating crackers and juice.

GROUP DISCUSSION

CONFIDENTIALITY | What's said in the group stays in the group.

NO CROSS-TALK | Be considerate of others as they share. Refrain from side conversations and texting during group time.

NO FIXING | We are not in the group to fix each other. Jesus does that part.

SHARING | Be sensitive to the amount of time you share. Don't talk too much or too little. Every person brings something valuable to the group.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

The Lord's Table

Welcome to the last week of our Essentials series. Today we are discussing Communion. We call it the Lord's Supper because it reminds us of the last Passover meal Jesus ate with His Disciples. It is the Eucharist (thanksgiving) because in it we thank God for Christ's work for us. It is communion because through it we are supposed to commune with God and with other believers.

Q: What are some activities that you or your family do to show thanks to others? What meals have significance in your circles? What makes these things significant?

DEEPER DIVE

Commandment

Jesus met with his disciples and instituted the Lord's supper and communion with God Read Matthew 26:26-30.

Q: What was the significance of Jesus foretelling his death during the Passover meal?

Q: What are we giving thanks for as we take the Lord's Supper?

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COMMUNION

A Look Back

While they were eating the Passover meal. The Passover meal was a meal of remembering. Israel had been held captive and as slaves in Egypt for 400 years. The people cried out to God and HE sent Moses as His instrument for delivering them. God used Moses to bring 9 devastating plagues on the Egyptians and the 10th was the death of the first born. the only way to avoid the death of the first born in your house was to sacrifice an unblemished lamb, spread it's blood over the door of your house so that the death angel would pass over your house.

At this meal, Jesus introduced a new meal of remembering.

Bread- this is my body- not literally His body, but it represents and reminds us that God became a man to show us what God is like and to show us the way we should live.

Wine- His blood of the covenant poured out for the forgiveness of sins. People under the Old Covenant (before Jesus) could approach God only through a mediator (a priest) and only by an animal sacrifice for their forgiveness. Reading certain parts of the Old Testament Law is exhausting with all the rules and requirements for the sacrifices that had to be constantly repeated every time you sinned. The Old Covenant was a shadow of the New- sin brings death. but here's the thing, Old covenant animal sacrifices really couldn't forgive sin.

A Look Inside

Read 1 Corinthians 11:27-33

Think about Your Position Are you in Jesus? Take some time to share about when you gave your life to Christ.

Think about your Purity Are you in sin? Is there a place of resistance to His will in your life? Jesus didn't die so you could live selfishly and sinfully. He died so that you might be free from sin and free to serve God and His purposes.

Think about your Potential Ephesians 2:10 - You are not defined by your past, you can be whatever God declares.

A Look Around

We share a common failure - what unites us is not that we are all amazing and strong. What unites us is that we all are weak and sinful.

Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and f all short of the glory of God.

We sh are a common cure - What can wash away my s in? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. what can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

A Look Ahead

Jesus knew he would die. But He also knew He would live again. And not just live, but ascend to Heaven and one day return. Jesus told them th at He would drink the fr it of the vine again. His death wasn't permanent, it was a payment and he promised to return victorious.

READ HEBREWS 12:1-2

What helps you live in faith and not fear?

What helps you live in hope and not the heaviness of the world?