



Communion



Note to the leader:

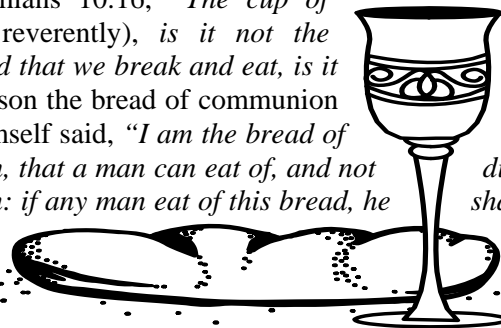
Place a paper napkin with a little cup of grape juice and a little piece of bread or soda cracker on it at each place.

Place a safe candle in the center of the table, or where you can reach it, with matches beside it to light when ready.

The word “communion” means “to be in union with.” So as we prepare our hearts to receive the elements of communion, it is with the hushed expectation of being in union with Jesus during this time of remembering the death of His body on the cross for our healing and salvation; and the shedding of His blood for the forgiveness of our sins. It is a time of quiet partnership in remembering, a willingness and desire to communicate on both sides. Communion can only take place between two people who mutually believe in and respect each other. It must be based on the accepted fact that Jesus loves you, now, today, just as you are and He wants to communion with you. Otherwise, it is just one sided worship on your part – not communion.

When we take communion, we are also having communion with God, because it was Jesus’ death and resurrection that made it possible for our spirit to be born again – this time into the family of God – making it possible for us to go directly in to the presence of God. Because of the complete pardon, freedom, deliverance and forgiveness of our sins by the blood that Jesus shed on the cross, the Bible says, *“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest (the holy place where God dwells) by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which He has consecrated (dedicated as holy) for us, through the veil (the covering of God’s dwelling place), that is to say, His blood. Let us draw near with a true heart, in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water, let us hold fast (keep it in your memory) the profession (the acknowledgement) of our faith without wavering (faltering with doubt); for He is faithful who promised.”* (Hebrews 10:19-23)

The taking of the communion of Christ is an important and serious matter for Christians. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 10:16, *“The cup of over and drink reverently), is it not the Christ? The bread that we break and eat, is it Christ?”* The reason the bread of communion because Jesus Himself said, *“I am the bread of down from heaven, that a man can eat of, and not down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he will give is my of the world.”*



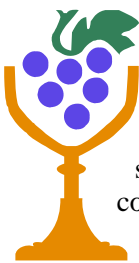
blessing, which we bless (pray communion of the blood of not the communion of the body of life. This is the bread which came die. I am the living bread which came shall live forever and the bread that I flesh, which I will give for the life (John 6:48-51)

(Cont'd)

In the Old Testament (before Jesus was born) sacrifices were made to atone (make up for) their sins so they would not die because of their broken commandments. These sacrifices for forgiveness and to save their lives were made of the blood of different kinds of animals and different forms of bread. The bread was for the saving of their life and the healing of their body, and the blood was for the forgiveness of their sins and iniquities (evil deeds). When the temple was built in Jerusalem, there was a golden table in the sanctuary on which there was 12 loaves of bread placed every day. This bread was called “showbread” and it represented Jesus who was to come many years later as the living bread of life. So, the people in Jesus’ day understood about the flesh of sacrifices that were eaten in the temple by the priests after they had been placed on the altar, over the flames which cooked them. The flesh of sacrifices was holy and only priests could eat it. That was God’s way of providing food for the priests who served in the temple as well as offering the sacrifice to preserve the life of the sinner. So when Jesus spoke of them eating His flesh – this was a familiar term to the people, and bread was used as remembrance of Him. Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for sin, His death on the cross did away with all other sacrificial offering to God in the temple. The sinner could now go directly to God – no sacrifice was required because Jesus made the final one.



There was another part to making a sacrifice in the temple in Old Testament days. That was the pouring out of drink offerings. These offerings were always of water or wine. Some were poured out over the altar when it was not an offering for sin, and others were offered unto God, and then given to the priests for their own use. That’s why wine is used in communion to represent the blood of Jesus. Forgiveness requires the shedding of blood. In O.T. sacrifices for sin, the blood of the animal was sprinkled on the altar and other places or poured out as required by God’s commandments – but because Jesus did away with all sacrifice for sin on the cross, wine is used as a remembrance of His perfect blood that was shed on the cross as the perfect sacrifice.

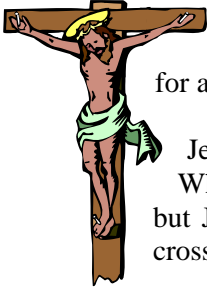


(LEADER LIGHT THE CANDLE AT THIS TIME, SIGNIFYING THE PRESENCE OF JESUS, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD)

Jesus knew when He was going to be betrayed by one of His disciples. It was during a supper called the Passover. All of His disciples were with Him. The Bible records it this way, “*The Lord Jesus, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread: (EVERYONE AT TABLE HOLD UP THE BREAD) And when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, ‘Take, eat; this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of (to remember) Me.’ (EVERYONE AT TABLE EAT THE BREAD) Then after the same manner He took the cup (EVERYONE AT TABLE PICK UP THE CUP OF JUICE) when He had eaten, saying, ‘This cup is the New Testament (new promise) in my blood (which is shed for many for the remission of sins): do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ (EVERYONE DRINK THE JUICE IN THEIR CUP) For as often as you eat this bread, and drink this cup, you do show (declare) the Lord’s death until He comes.*” (1 Corinthians 11:23-25) “*But, I will not drink ever again of this fruit of the vine (grape wine) until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.*” (Matthew 26:29) Then when they had sung a hymn – they went out into the Mount of Olives to a garden called Gethsemane where the Roman soldiers, led by Judas Iscariot, arrested Jesus and took him to be crucified.

(Cont'd)

Taking communion is a holy time. A time to focus on Jesus as your Lord. A time to remember that if He had not been willing to surrender His will to God, and to die the most horrible death a man can die, we would all be dead because of sin with no hope for an eternal life of joy and peace. (Matthew 26:38,39)



Jesus said in John 16:33, “. . . *Be of good cheer for I have overcome the world.*” What did Jesus mean? He means that Satan is in the world doing evil continually, but Jesus overcame all of Satan’s works by His broken body and shed blood on the cross of Calvary:

SATAN’S WORKS

Sin and death
Fear
Sickness and disease
Poverty
Worry and anxiety
Hatred
Demon spirits
Hopelessness
Eternal death

JESUS’ WORKS

Forgiveness and life
Faith
Healing and divine health
Prosperity
The peace of God
Love
Angels of God
A future and a hope
Eternal life

Hallelujah!!

Let us always remember the magnificent gift that Jesus has given us, and celebrate it often by communion with Him.



Note to leader: There are no questions and answer sheets, but continue discussion about Jesus as their blessed Savior who gave up everything so that each of them individually could be saved for all eternity.

MEMORY VERSE: (1 Corinthians 10:16)

“The cup of blessing, which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?”