

Why Communion

LifeGroup Lesson

May 7, 2017

Matthew 26:26-28, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

OPENING PRAYER:

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: Clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you, for the honor of your name. Amen.

BREAKING THE ICE:

- What did you agree/disagree with the LifeTalk this week?
- What is your favorite meal? Favorite place to eat? What makes it special?
- What is one of the most memorable communion services you have ever experienced?

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:

A historical criticism of Christians is that we were cannibals, because we took communion and in that act we ate Jesus' body and drank his blood. This lesson centers on the scriptures of Holy Communion.

Read Matthew 26:17-30, Mark 14:12-26, Luke 22:7-23. If you have time, consider reading John's version (John 6:48-58) which is very different.

- What is different about these three gospel lessons? What is similar?
- Which Gospel do you prefer? Why?
- How much do you think the disciples understood when Jesus spoke about his body and blood?
- What profound new meaning does Jesus give to the Passover bread and to the Passover cup?
- If you were there, how would you have reacted to the news about Jesus' unnamed betrayer?
- With which disciple do you identify? Why?
- Why is it important for Christians to observe Communion? What does the Lord's Supper mean to you?
- How deeply do you know God's forgiveness of your sins? Why do many Christians struggle with guilt if Jesus provides the forgiveness of sins?
- Now read Paul's version of communion in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. What are the differences and similarities? What version speaks to you right now?

When Jesus celebrated Holy Communion, it was all based in the celebration of the Passover. Jesus reinterpreted the Passover and offers himself as the lamb from the first Passover. Read the exodus story and identify the many ways in which Jesus brings new meaning to the feast. Exodus 11, 12:1-30

CLOSING POSSIBILITIES:

- How will your life be different based upon what you have learned in this week's scripture, lesson and/or LifeTalk?
- How can the group pray for you this week?

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Divine Saviour,
we come to Your sacred table
to nourish ourselves,
not with bread but with Yourself,
true Bread of eternal life.
Help us daily to make a good and perfect meal
of this divine food.
Let us be continually refreshed
by the perfume of Your kindness and goodness.
May the Holy Spirit fill us with His Love.
Meanwhile, let us prepare a place
for this holy food by emptying our hearts.
Amen. –Saint Francis de Sales