

# *Communion*



*You and Your Child*

## **The Lord's Supper**

a time for  
† remembrance  
† communion  
† hope

a sign and a seal of His grace

a gift of God to you and your child

## For Parents

### ***“Grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ”***

**2 Peter 3:18**

Our understanding of communion is an unfolding process. At an early age, a child can learn what it means to be loved, to love others, to love Jesus, to do something with others, to follow simple instructions. **This is part of Communion.**

At an early age, a child sitting close to his parents can sense when they are participating in something important to them. He/she can sense reverence and love. **This is part of Communion**

As a child grows, he/she learns more about Jesus and increasingly understands being loved and forgiven through Christ. He/she understands remembering and that people share the bread and the cup to remember Jesus. **This is part of Communion.**

As we grow as children of God (children, youth, adults), we grow toward an understanding of the events surrounding the Last Supper (the covenant, the Passover and the resurrection).

Each Communion Sunday we approach the Lord's Supper through worship (prayer, song and the Word), we bring new thoughts and new experiences through which God's Spirit enlarges our understanding.

We may try to “explain” the sacraments but we must remember that we are experiencing a mystery that goes beyond explanation. We come to a point of receiving and simply thanking God for this gift.

At some point your child will feel a part of this process and ask, “May I take too?” or you may ask, “When may my child receive communion with his/her family?” The Elders have established these steps to oversee taking communion.

1. Parent and child visit with Pastor Jane or an elder to request the privilege of the child's taking communion.
2. Pastor Jane informs the Elders of the family's request and the child is welcomed to the Table.

## **SOME QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR POSSIBLE DISCUSSION BETWEEN PARENT AND CHILD**

### **1.What is communion?**

It is a celebration of the church family in which we eat bread and drink juice together and we remember who Jesus is and what He means to us.

### **2.Why do we have communion?**

Jesus said that His followers should have this special meal to remember Him. When we have communion we join with others here and with Christians in all times and places in showing our faith in Christ and accepting His love for us.

### **3.Why is communion also called the Lord's Supper?**

A supper is a good way to remember what Jesus did for us. All people must eat to stay alive and remain strong. In the same way, the Lord's Supper reminds us that Jesus gives us life and strength. Eating supper together brings families closer together. In the same way, eating the Lord's Supper together brings our big family - the church - closer to Jesus and each other.

### **4.Why are bread and juice or wine used?**

This is like what Jesus used when He ate the Last Supper with His disciples. He said the bread is to remind us of His body and the juice (or wine) of His blood which were given so we can know God loves and forgives us. (see I Corinthians 11:23-26)



### **5.Will the bread and juice used in communion taste differently than regular bread and juice?**

No, but it is special to us because of the special use we make of it.

## 6.What are some feelings people may have during communion?

Sometimes people feel thankful as they remember Jesus lived and died and rose from the dead for them. (Acts 2:46-47)

Sometimes people feel happiness (joy) because of being together with others who love God. (Acts 2:46-47)

Sometimes people realize they belong to a very special family. (I Corinthians 10:16-17)

Sometimes people feel the presence of Jesus. (Luke 24:35)

Sometimes people remember Jesus' death and feel sadness. (I Corinthians 11:26)

## 7.What do people think about during communion?

Sometimes people think about who Jesus was and is and what He did.

Sometimes people think about how God loved us so much He sent Jesus to the world.

Sometimes people think about the truth that Jesus made us and loves us.

Sometimes people think about the fact that God forgives us and calls us to serve Him.

Sometimes people think about what Heaven might be like.

These are just a few things people think about.

**Each person has his/her own special thoughts.**



## 8.How do you know when you're ready to take communion?

Do you love Jesus and want to follow Him?

Do you feel that you are a part of the church?

Do you want to participate in this special supper with your church family?

Do you show consideration for others? (See I Corinthians 11:17-29)

If you answered yes to these, you are ready.

## Biblical Accounts of Communion

Scripture accounts of the Last Supper are found in Matthew 26:17-30, Mark 14:12-26, Luke 22:7-20. The Last Supper became the Lord's Supper and we read about the church family meeting together and celebrating the Lord's Supper/Communion as a part of a regular meal they had together. In I Cor. 11:23-26 we read about the church not having Communion in a spirit of togetherness; they were not showing love and concern for one another, the rich people would begin the meal before the poor people arrived; some ate more than their share and left little for those who came later.



*this do . . . in  
remembrance of me.*

Paul corrects the Corinthians, explaining that showing love to each other and seeing oneself as a part of the community of faith is preparation to a meaningful celebration of communion.

This is one reason we sometimes wait to eat the bread together and to drink the juice together. As we partake together, our sense of community is enhanced. Together we remember, together we welcome the Lord's presence, together we await His return.

Jesus took the cup

and



He gave thanks

He took the bread

and



He gave thanks

Give thanks to the Lord

for He is good for

His loving kindness is everlasting

*Psalms 107:1*