

# the Royal

## MAKING SENSE OF THE BIBLE

**"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." 1 Pet. 2:9**

### **Week 5: "Communion"**

**"This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."** Jesus commanded us to constantly partake in Communion, or the "Lord's Supper", as an act of worship until He returns. This week Mickey and Mingo gave us insight into the historical and biblical context of Communion, as well as the practical application for us today.

What we will look at this week in our Small Groups is:

- ▶ Some historical and biblical insight of the meaning of Communion.
- ▶ Take a break from our usual study of one of the daily devotions, and examine the original Passover meal with its new meaning found in Christ.
- ▶ Optional homework study assignments designed for personal enrichment.

Communion has traditionally been a very important sacrament for the Christian church. What it symbolizes is at the core of the Christian faith. By practicing it at church this past weekend, our hope is that we have a greater understanding of its significance.

This week we want to strongly encourage you to practice Communion within your own group. After the study we should realize that it is more than just a practice at church; it should be done a lot more often.

Have fun in your studies and we pray that the Lord will bless you in your growth of His Word.

In Him,

Rock Church Small Group Team

## **Part 1: Opening/Recap Weekly Challenge/Small Group Sermon Discussion**

### **Opening:**

- Open in Prayer
- Worship (optional)
- Recap Week 4 Homework
- Small Group Sermon Discussion

### **Recap Week 4 Weekly Challenge:**

1. Recite **Exodus 34:6**.
2. Discuss experiences practicing the **Discipline of Worship**.

### **Small Group Sermon Discussion:**

Because we spent the sermon on Sunday examining Communion, we want to spend our time in Small Group this week digging a little deeper into the same topic. We will still be using the "Read, Reflect, and Respond" format, but in a way that examines the context of Scripture while studying one single topic.

At the end we will take Communion together as a group and practice what we have learned.

## **Part 2: Read, Reflect, and Respond – Communion**

### **Biblical Significance of Communion (Read):**

Let's take a look at the historical significance of what the big deal was for The Lord's Supper, or Communion. The following are important points to note as to the purpose of it:

- ▶ Ex. 12:1-13 defines the Passover. This was the judgment of the Lord on Pharaoh and Egypt for their refusal to release the Hebrews of their slavery.
- ▶ Ex. 12:14-22 states that Israel is now commanded to observe this day forever. They are to constantly remember the day the Lord brought them out of Egypt.
- ▶ The Passover, or *paschal*, was the name of the animal (lamb) being sacrificed.
- ▶ Jesus was repeatedly known as the Lamb of God (cf. Isaiah 53:7; John 1:29; Acts 8:32-35; 1 Pet. 1:19; Rev. 5:6, 13).

## **Part 2: Read, Reflect, and Respond – Communion**

**(continued)**

- ▶ During the Last Supper, Jesus refers Himself as the Lamb to be slaughtered the next day (Passover). He commands His disciples to partake of the body and blood as remembrance of what He is about to accomplish on the cross (cf. Matt. 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:17-20; John 13:1-4).
  - ▶ Read Luke 22:17-20 as a group.
- 1.** Discuss as a group what new insights were discovered about Communion that may have been overlooked in the past.
  - 2.** Discuss any further significance of Communion that might have been observed.

### **Our Responsibility in Communion (Reflect):**

Since Christ commanded His disciples to partake in Communion, the next thing we need to examine is if we should be partaking in Communion. If so, what are the implications of this? Paul addresses this to the early Christian church in Corinth, so let's examine what Paul said about the matter.

- 1.** Read 1 Cor. 11:23-32 together as a group. Identify and discuss what Paul mentions about this important form of worship, including how the people were treating it.
  - ▶ The wealthy within the Corinth church were rejecting others from participation because of their status. Their actions were rejecting the saving gift of His body represented by the bread.
- 2.** What are some ways in which we might treat Communion in a dishonorable way? What was Paul's main emphasis for us when participating in Communion?
  - ▶ The idea is not to focus on the negative, but to stir the group's heart to a proper respect of worship when participating.
  - ▶ Paul commands that we do this until the Lord returns. This must be a big deal if he stresses the practice of it.

## Part 2: Read, Reflect, and Respond – Communion

(continued)

### Practicing Communion (Respond):

1. Take 1-2 minutes to silently pray and confess your sins to the Lord.
2. As mentioned in the sermon, we need to examine ourselves as listed in 2 Cor. 13:5. Challenge everybody to clear their minds of distraction, and to examine their motives and heart prior to partaking of Communion.
3. Partake in Communion as a group. Just use a small piece of bread and small amount of grape juice. Pray for the group prior to partaking of the bread and juice.
  - ▶ Remember that the bread and juice provide symbolism and nothing more. This is simply a time to remember the sacrifice Christ did on the cross to satisfy the penalty of sin against us.

## Part 3: Weekly Challenge

- ▶ **Scripture Reading Guide:** Go through the devotions that correspond with each day. These are given to everyone in their lesson plan every week. (May 31- June 6)
- ▶ **Scripture Memory:** “For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.” **1 Cor. 11:26 (NASB)**
- ▶ **Bible Study Tool:** Navigate through [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) and discover the great resources available for free for your personal gain.
- ▶ **Spiritual Formation Practice:** Each week we will introduce a “spiritual discipline” that each person can try to adapt to their personal devotion. To stay in line with the practice of Communion, we want to also encourage everyone in the sacrament of **Baptism**.

## Part 3: Weekly Challenge

(continued)

In the beginning of the book of Mark, John the Baptist came on the scene as the one who would pave the way for the Christ. "I baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." Though Christ's baptism of the Spirit is the baptism of salvation, the water baptism is a public declaration of this Spirit baptism. In Matt. 28:19 Christ commands His disciples, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." In this wonderful sacrament, we have the pleasure to publicly declare before all that we are Christ's and we repent of our past sins, and trust in Him.

So the challenge this week is:

- ▶ Have you, or anyone in the group not been baptized?
- ▶ If somebody in the group has not been baptized, we encourage you as a group to baptize them.
- ▶ You do not need a Pastor to perform this. In fact, what is a better way to fellowship with your group than to celebrate a baptism!!!
- ▶ The only thing you need is a swimming pool, or go to the beach or bay.
- ▶ If your group prefers to wait until the church has a corporate baptism, it will be on Sat. July 24<sup>th</sup>. Keep an eye out for the announcement in the bulletin closer to that date.

If your group does have a baptism celebration, or you should have any questions as to how to do a baptism please contact John Darrow at 619.764.5185, or email [john.darrow@therocksandiego.org](mailto:john.darrow@therocksandiego.org).

Can't wait to hear about the blessing this day will be!!!!