

Communion



Dear Parents,

The purpose of this packet is to supply you with a tool to use as you train your child in an understanding of what communion is, and why it is a significant part of a believer's celebration of their relationship with God through Christ Jesus.

A couple of recommendation and notes are:

1. Read through this before sitting down with your child. That way you'll have a chance to research anything you might have questions about and you'll understand the big picture.
2. As you walk through this with your child, the goal is for them to look up the majority of the passages and answer the questions for themselves. This tool is designed for them to personalize their faith in Jesus. The parent packet is designed to give you the information you need to guide them through this packet with confidence. Use your judgment as to whether or not they need to come up with the exact answers provided.
3. This packet is not designed to be quick, it will take your child some time to complete (probably about 1 1/2 to 2 hours). The goal is a clear understanding of communion through discovery, this takes time.
4. There are varying opinions, thoughts, and beliefs surrounding Communion. We attempted to avoid as many of those as possible, while communicating what we believe to be solid Biblical principals. If you are interested in LJCC's beliefs regarding communion please read the Essential Doctrines. If you have questions please let us know.
5. Some people ask at what age children should be before they participate in communion. We suggest that children begin participating in communion as soon as they are believers, can understand that it is a commemoration and celebration of Jesus' atoning sacrifice (gift of life), and can receive the bread and the cup in repentance, gratitude and faith.
6. Please don't hesitate to contact Charles with questions at 858-558-9020 ext 208 or charles@ljcommunitychurch.org

We pray that God will strengthen your relationship with Him as well as the bond between you and your child as you spend time working through this exercise.

Start by praying and asking God to help you to understand Communion.



1

What do you think of when you think of the word "Communion"?



What is another word for communion?

Lord's Supper, Eucharist



Where did it all begin? Let's look back at some history ...

a. Passover Feast

Read Exodus 12 for an account of the first Passover and summarize this for your child. If you've attended the Seder dinner that's the Passover!

The Last Supper:

- Matthew 26:17-19

¹⁷On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

¹⁸He replied, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, 'The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.' " ¹⁹So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.

Who: Jesus and disciples

What: Preparations for Passover

When: First day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread

Where: The city

Why: To prepare the Passover meal

How: By Jesus' command and provision

- Matthew 26:20-21

²⁰When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. ²¹And while they were eating, he said, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me."

- Matthew 26:26-30

²⁶While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

²⁷Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸This is my blood of the covenant, which is

Who: Jesus and disciples

What: Jesus broke bread and gave it to the disciples and gave them a drink

When: During a Passover meal

Where: The upper room

Why: A way for Jesus to show the disciples what He was going to do for them

How: By using the elements of the meal

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poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom."

³⁰When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

The Early Church of Jerusalem:

- Acts 2:42-47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Who: The early followers of Jesus

What: Devoted themselves to learning, breaking bread, and prayer, sharing their time, food, and possessions, praising God

When: Soon after Jesus ascended to heaven

Where: Jerusalem

Why: Because they believed Jesus was the Messiah and wanted to follow his example

How: By God's power

c. The Church in Corinth:

- I Corinthians 11:20-21

²⁰When you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat, ²¹for as you eat, each of you goes ahead without waiting for anybody else. One remains hungry, another gets drunk.

Who: The Church in Corinth

What: Taking communion selfishly and were getting drunk, they did not respect what they were doing

When: N/A

Where: Corinth

Why: They forgot what they were taught

How: N/A

- I Corinthians 11:23-28

²³For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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²⁷Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.



4

Why should I participate in Communion?

See I Corinthians 11:23-28

Jesus commanded us to take communion as a reminder of what He did for us.



5

How often should I take Communion?

See I Corinthians 11:25

As often as you want to ... in remembrance



6

Why are the following attitudes important when I take Communion?

A. Awe - What Jesus did for us is a mystery and a gift beyond anything we can imagine, and awe is the feeling we get when we realize things are good but we don't understand them.

B. Thankfulness - Jesus' great gift requires us to remember what He did and be thankful

C. Humility - We were totally lost with no hope, and without Jesus' sacrifice we would still be hopeless. It's not by our greatness, but because of His Greatness!

D. Repentance - Since our disobedience to God required Jesus' sacrifice, an appropriate response is our willingness to leave those things that keep us from living the full abundant life Jesus' great gift offers us. Repentance is turning from our sin and more importantly turning to face Jesus.

E. Forgiveness - Since God has forgiven us, we should also forgive those who wronged us.

F. Faith - That Jesus' sacrifice for us was enough to forgive our sins and bring us back into a right relationship with God. Faith is not seen, it's what we hope for and action is the out come of believe.



7

What was Jesus really saying the night that He shared His last meal with His disciples and what does that mean to me today?

To enter into the most intimate of relationships ... with Jesus.

It means Jesus wants to be part of my everyday life as a close friend.



8

La Jolla Community Church has outlined the following beliefs concerning communion in our Essential Doctrines. Please read through this together.

Holy Communion: Is the commemoration and celebration of Jesus' atoning sacrifice. At His final meal with His disciples Jesus instituted what is called Holy Communion or the Lord's Supper. It is an ongoing celebration of the atoning sacrifice of Jesus on our behalf. God is present in the bread and the cup. It reminds us that it is no less a mystery that He inhabits His people by faith. Holy Communion is for believers, and each one who receives the bread and the cup does so in repentance, gratitude and faith.