

COMMUNION TOGETHER



DESCRIPTION

Jesus Christ is our eternal Passover Lamb. Like the Israelites painted the blood of the lamb on their doorposts to be protected from the destroyer, Jesus shed His blood so that our sins are forgiven.

Through His blood painted on the doorposts of our hearts, we can be protected from destruction of sin, the world, the flesh, and the evil one. Jesus' body was broken so that we can freely enter into the presence of God to worship. When we take communion, we remember this great deliverance and what Jesus Christ did for us and receive in ourselves the life of God.

The first disciples of Christ took communion (or "broke bread") regularly. Consecrated bread and wine were made readily available for believers to serve themselves or take communion together. As a holy nation and a royal priesthood, every believer is a priest of God and able to administer the body and blood of Christ with due reverence. (1 Peter 2:9) This said, communion and the benefits of Christ's sacrifice are only available to those who believe that Jesus is Lord and that God raised Him from the dead. This means that if you do not yet believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you should abstain from communion or better yet, believe Jesus and partake.

Practicing the partaking of Communion is about commemorating Christ's sacrifice, renewing our faith in what He has done for us, and to looking forward to His return.

As you take communion together as a group, take a moment to look around the room at the people of God. These are your people. We are one nation, one people, one family, one body, one Kingdom chosen by God to be His. Hallelujah!

SCRIPTURE PORTION

Luke 22:19-20 NIV - And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.

GROUP PRACTICE

1. Prepare the bread and wine.
 - Consecrate the bread and wine to the Lord by praying over them. For example, "I consecrate this bread and wine to the Lord for holy use and purpose."
 - Do not use this bread or wine for casual snacking.
2. Perceive the body and blood of Jesus.
 - Jesus said of the bread and wine, "this **is** my body" and, "this **is** my blood" even when He still had a natural body.
 - Read the Communion Scriptures about what the body and blood of Jesus have done for us.
 - Believe that these Scriptures apply to the body and blood you are about to partake of.
3. Examine yourself and your faith.
 - Do you believe that Jesus Christ shed His blood for the forgiveness of your sins?
 - Do you believe that you are totally forgiven?
 - Do you believe that you can receive all of the benefits of Christ body and blood through faith in Jesus?
4. *Optional:* Have people share one aspect of Christ's sacrifice that they are focusing on as they take Communion today.
5. Remember the Lord's death and proclaim His return.
 - Praise God that because of Jesus's sacrifice, you are protected from the destroyer until Jesus returns.
6. Partake.
 - As you eat the body and drink the blood of Jesus, be consciously strengthened with the life and power of God in your inmost being. The indestructible life of Christ and the same power that raised Christ from the dead is in you.
7. Praise God and rejoice in His salvation!

PURPOSE:

To remember, honor, and revere Christ's sacrifice of atonement on our behalf.

To rejoice in God's salvation and the way that God has made for us to be saved.

To partake of the life of God.

GROUP SIZE:

Any size group.

SCRIPTURE PORTIONS:

John 1:29

1 Corinthians 5:7

Luke 22:15-20

Matthew 26:26-28

Mark 14:17-25

John 13:21-30

John 6:53-57

1 Corinthians 11:23-34