

Family Worship Guide – Week 36

MEMORIZE

1 Corinthians 11:26 – For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

READ

Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

In 1 Corinthians 11, Paul turns to address certain areas of abuse that were happening in the context of the gathering of the church. Issues such as women's head coverings, hairstyles, and abuse of the Lord's Table are addressed in this chapter. Paul sought to restore order by reminding the Corinthians that God had made a difference between men and women and that each had a proper place in God's economy. There were also appropriate customs that symbolized these relationships and reminded both men and women of their correct places in the divine scheme. Paul did not say, or even hint, that difference meant inequality or inferiority.

However, for the sake of our family worship this week, we're going to simply focus on the purpose of the Lord's Supper for the Lord's Church. In these verses, Paul reminded the Corinthians how Jesus established the Lord's Supper on the night before He died and that the reason the church continued in the practice was to obediently remember all that Jesus had done through His death and to serve as a catalyst for the proclamation of the gospel.

Questions:

What is the Lord's Supper?

What do the bread and juice represent?

Why do we celebrate the Lord's Supper?

Bottom Line: We celebrate the Lord's Supper to remember and proclaim the Jesus' sacrificial death.

SING

We can also remember Jesus' perfect life and his sacrificial death as we sing this week's FFWG song, 'His Name Is Jesus'. The verses to this hymn made their appearance in the 18th century. Nearly two and a half centuries later, a chorus was added.

His name is Jesus

Risen Lamb for sinners slain

His name is Jesus

All creation sings the praise

Of Jesus name

As we continue in worship, let's join with all of creation and exalt the name of Jesus by singing 'His Name Is Jesus', for His name is above every name, and in Him we have redemption by His precious blood.

Visit our website for a link to this song: www.brookhills.org/gathering/this_week.html.

SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created by the age-group ministry leaders as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's word and worship Him together.

Preschool

- Before you begin: pour a small glass of juice for each family member and have some crackers ready on a plate.
- Remember, God loved us so much that He sent His one and only Son to earth to die on a cross so that we could have eternal life. God wants us to choose to follow Him and to love Him more than anything. He wants us to turn away from our sin and to trust Him.

- Can you name some holidays when you eat a special meal or enjoy special foods? What special things do you eat on this day?
- Jesus celebrated a special meal with the disciples. They ate special foods. The food had special meaning. Jesus used the bread and wine (juice) to teach the disciples about His death. They were symbols.
- Do you know what a symbol is? A symbol is an object that stands for or represents something. For example, on a map the blue represents water.
- Jesus said the bread was a symbol for His body and the wine (juice) was a symbol for His blood.
- At our church, we celebrate the Lord's Supper, also called Communion, to remember that Jesus died to save sinners like you and me. Each person who is a Christ follower can participate in communion.
- Eat the cracker together and remember that Jesus' body was beaten when He died for us. Drink the juice and remember that Jesus shed His blood when He died for us.
- Why do we still celebrate this special meal today? (To remember what Jesus did for us) Why did Jesus have to die for us? (To pay the price for our sins) How can our sins be forgiven? (By believing that Jesus died and rose again for our sins)
- Pray together as a family and thank Jesus for all He has done for us.

Children

- Start by asking your child what they think the Lord's Supper is all about, and why we celebrate it (this will help you gauge their understanding so you can fill in the gaps).
- Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.
- Explain that on the night before Jesus died on the cross, He had a special meal with His disciples (now referred to as the Last Supper). During that supper He gave us a picture of the New Covenant that He had come to establish between God and Mankind. The picture He gave us is something we now call Communion or The Lord's Supper. The picture Jesus gave shows what it meant to us when He died on the cross for our sins.
- Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-24 again. Ask what they think the bread represents. (The Bread is a picture given to us to help us remember that Jesus' body was given for us on the cross.)
- Read 1 Corinthians 11:25 again. Ask what they think the wine represents. (The Wine is a picture given to us to help us remember that Jesus' blood was shed for us on the cross.)
- Explain that when Jesus died on the cross His blood was offered in sacrifice for us and it created a New Covenant with God so that whoever turns from their sins and trusts in Jesus would be saved.
- Read 1 Corinthians 11:26 again. Ask what they think this verse means. (We are to observe the Lord's Supper until He comes back, so we can remember what He did to save us. When we observe The Lord's Supper we are saying that we believe that what Jesus did on the cross for us makes a difference. It makes us right with God.)
- We also celebrate that one day Jesus will come back, and then we will always be with Him forever.
- Pray and thank God for sending Jesus and that He gave us a picture to help us remember what He has done for us.

Students

- Before reading from Scripture, read the summary in the Read section above.
- Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.
 - Paul is giving a reminder to the Corinthians about the Lord's Supper.
 - Read Matthew 26:26-29.
 - What does the bread represent?
 - What does the juice represent?
 - Who instituted the Lord's Supper?
 - Did Jesus do this before or after the cross?
 - Look back at 1 Corinthians 11:26.
 - What is the purpose of the Lord's Supper?
 - When should we no longer celebrate the Lord's Supper?
- Does it matter who partakes of the Lord's Supper?
- How should we prepare ourselves for the Lord's Supper? (1 Corinthians 11:27-28)