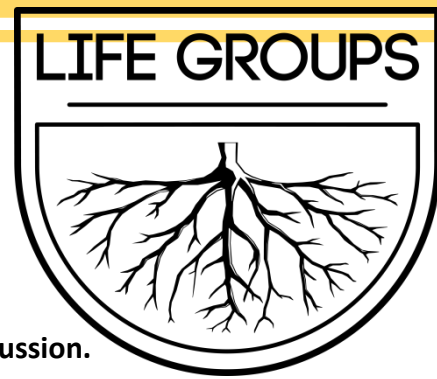


## Communion Sunday

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### INTRODUCTION

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As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

**ICE BREAKER QUESTION:** Begin by asking a couple of people in your group to share a story about the most celebrated or memorable meal they have ever been a part of. Why do you think food and meals are so often a part of our celebrations in life?

Consider the meals we share together. We rarely gather simply to eat, but also to serve and share with others. We typically celebrate special occasions by sharing a meal. These moments at the table communicate something about an event's importance, and they connect us to one another in a way that other activities do not. So, it's no surprise that on the night before His death, Jesus chose to explain the significance of His suffering and death with a meal.

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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. **What is your biggest takeaway? How was your experience with the Life Tool's this past week?**
  
2. **READ MATTHEW 26:26-29. This scene with Jesus and His disciples took place during the annual Passover celebration. How did Jesus give new meaning to the Passover celebration?**

The Passover meal served as a reminder of God's deliverance, love, and power. Jesus used this significant time to teach about Himself and foreshadow His death on the cross. The Lord's Supper celebrates believers' spiritual and permanent deliverance from sins. Rather than dying for only one family, the Lamb of God died for all the world (see John 1:29).

3. **What is the significance of the bread? What is the significance of the cup?**

- a. **As the disciples observed and listened to Jesus at the first Lord's Supper, what do you think might have been going through their minds? How much do you think they understood when Jesus spoke about His body and blood?**

Jesus' words "Do this in remembrance of me" (1 Cor. 11:24-25) convey the idea of a figurative memorial. The bread and juice are symbols or pictures of Jesus' body and blood. They serve as reminders for us that Jesus sacrificed His body on our behalf, to pay for our sins and make it possible for us to have a relationship with God.

4. **READ 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-28. Why do you think Christians need to be reminded about the meaning and purpose of the Lord's Supper?**

Before we partake of the Supper, we should examine our attitudes and motives. For example, do we hold a grudge against someone? Since Jesus taught reconciliation with a fellow Christian as a precondition for offering a gift to God (see Matt. 5:23-24), we can do no less before we participate in the Lord's Supper. What is our motive for participating? Is the act an empty ritual that we perform just to keep from being different from those seated around us? Are we afraid of what others may think if we fail to partake? Paul's instructions regarding the Lord's Supper also apply to all kinds of corporate worship. We always need to approach God in worship with humility and sincerity of heart.

5. **Are you ever tempted to start examining others instead of yourself? How can you prevent this from happening? What are some practical ways a person can "examine himself"?**
  
6. **When do you tend to approach worship or a part of the worship experience, such as the Lord's Supper, too lightly? What are some ways we can help each other guard against those complacencies and habits?**
  
7. **How can you use the story of the Last Supper and its elements to share Jesus with someone?**

## Conclusion

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The supper is to proclaim the death of Christ, and if we partake of the sacrament in a way He has not appointed, we cannot truly proclaim His death. We take the supper seriously because we take Christ and His death seriously.

## PRAYER

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Spend time thanking Christ for what He did for us. Ask God to continue to work in our church so that He will be glorified. Thank Him for the privilege of remembering His sacrifice together as the body of Christ through the practice of the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper helps us realize just how important Jesus understands His death to be in the grand narrative of God's redemption. As you partake of the Lord's Supper, consciously recall His great sacrifice on our behalf.



### **FURTHER STUDY**

#### **Devotionals-**

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/lords-supper-instituted>

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/lords-supper-and-proclamation>

#### **Sermon**

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/series/foundations/the-lords-supper>

