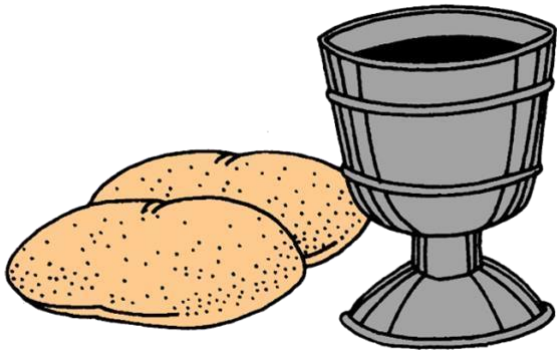


Meaning of the Lord's Supper

Scripture Reference: [1 Corinthians 11:23-34](#)



Suggested Emphasis: We take the Lord's Supper each week as a memorial celebration of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

Memory Verse: Do this in remembrance of me. 1 Corinthians 11:24b, NIV

Story Overview:

During the Passover meal Jesus gave new meaning to the unleavened bread and fruit of the vine. He told the disciples that in the future they were to eat and drink it to remember the significance of his death on their behalf.

Background Study:

Children are often curious about the Lord's Supper. Many times children who do not usually attend church ask what it means. Isn't it wonderful that God has left us with this wonderful teaching tool? This is a perfect time to help the children understand why we eat the supper and what it means.

(Luke 22:15) Jesus said that he "eagerly desired to eat this Passover" with his disciples before he "suffered". The Passover had been celebrated for generations but this one was the last one to remember the death passing over the houses whose doorframes were covered over with the blood of a slain lamb. Within hours Jesus, the true Passover Lamb, was to be slain (1 Corinthians 5:7). Because of Jesus' death on the cross Death passes over those of us who have been covered by the Lamb's blood.

Through Jesus, God eternally saves his people. Jesus wanted us to always remember this through a special meal. It is often referred to as the "Lord's Supper". "Do this in remembrance of me" 1 Corinthians 11:24-25.

Read about Jesus first instituting the Lord's Supper in [Matthew 26:27-30](#); [Mark 14:22-26](#); and [Luke 22:14-20](#).

Jesus used the special meal of remembrance to institute the Lord's Supper. There was now new meaning to a lot of things. This supper represented the new covenant that had been prophesied by Jeremiah (Jeremiah 31:31-34). The Jews had been living under the old covenant for hundreds of years. This old covenant would now pass and a new one would be in its place (Hebrews 8:8-13). Old animal sacrifices would pass away because Jesus was the perfect sacrifice (Hebrews 10:1-10; 9:11-15).

There are several things to notice about the Lord's Supper from 1 Corinthians 11:

It is a remembrance (verses 23-25). We remember the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. We consider what this body and blood represent to us. We remember what it cost God to send his son for us.

It is a proclamation (verse 26). By taking the bread and cup we are saying that we are making Christ part of us. We take all of him. We say, "This body and blood was given for me." The verse says that you proclaim his death "Whenever you eat this bread". We want to proclaim it often. It was a practice of the early church to eat the Lord's Supper together on the first day of the week, Sunday (Acts 20:7).

We take it in a manner that reflects its significance (verse 27). The supper should not be taken flippantly or selfishly. The Christians in Corinth were only thinking of themselves and getting their own way when they took the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:17-22).

We examine ourselves in relation to our fellow Christians in the church (verse 28-29). Is there harmony and unity in the body? As we reflect on the blood of Jesus and the price that was paid for us we cannot help but look into our hearts and consider our relations with other Christians in the church. We not only reflect on our own salvation but also consider the brothers and sisters around us. The Lord's Supper is more than just a moment between you and God. The church is the body of Christ (Ephesians 5:23). We are members of that body and we have responsibilities to one another (Colossians 3:12-17).

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