



Unit .26

Session .03

Jesus Shares the Lord's Supper

Scripture



Luke 22:14-23

14 When the hour came, he reclined at the table, and the apostles with him. **15** Then he said to them, “I have fervently desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. **16** For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” **17** Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he said, “Take this and share it among yourselves. **18** For I tell you, from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” **19** And he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, gave it to them, and said, “This is my body,

which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

20 In the same way he also took the cup after supper and said, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. **21** But look, the hand of the one betraying me is at the table with me. **22** For the Son of Man will go away as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!” **23** So they began to argue among themselves which of them it could be who was going to do it.

Do you look forward to the full arrival of God's future kingdom? Why or why not?

When have you felt the deep desire, or need, for God's kingdom? For Jesus?



99 Essential Doctrines

Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming (1 Cor. 11:26).

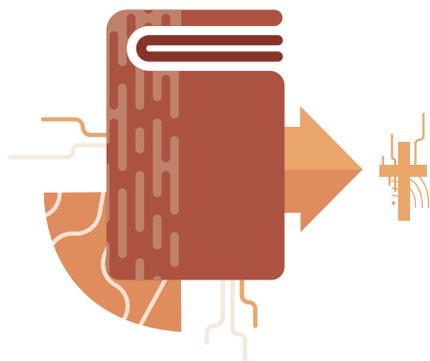
Main Point

The Lord's Supper points to Jesus' sacrifice for sins.

What are some holidays that have special meaning for you?

Why is it important that we remember what Jesus has done for us?

How does the Lord's Supper provide a picture of salvation in Christ?



Christ Connection

Thousands of years before Jesus came, God made a covenant with Israel and sealed it with sacrifice. When the people of God broke the covenant and worshiped false gods, God promised to enact a new covenant in which He would forgive sins and write His law on His people's hearts. At the Last Supper, Jesus explained that His sacrificial death would establish this new covenant and bring forgiveness of sins.



Head

What are some ways you can make sure the Lord's Supper doesn't become a mere church ritual you do but a meaningful remembrance of Jesus and what He has done?

How would you describe to an unchurched friend the meaning of the Lord's Supper?



Heart

How can the Lord's Supper encourage believers in their faith?

How does this session give you a renewed understanding of the Lord's Supper?



Hands

How does the Lord's Supper challenge us to serve others?

Who will you share the gospel with in hopes that others will hear and believe and join in the celebration of Jesus?

Daily Devotions



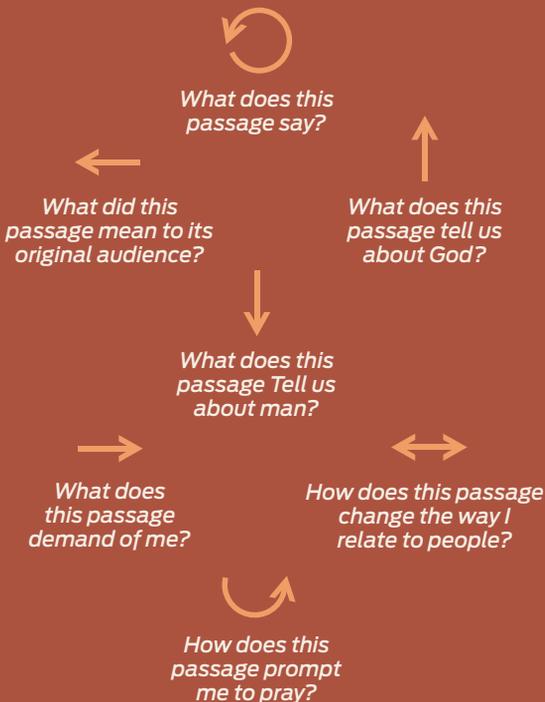
Day 1

Luke 22:7-13

The providence and the planning behind the first Lord's Supper is given to us in this passage. We see that the Lord orchestrated the very room where the Passover meal would be taken, planned the meeting between a man carrying water and Peter and John, and even instructed the very words that would be spoken between them. The Lord oversaw all the details leading to this important meal, the meal we celebrate today. Just as the Lord planned all the events that led to the meal, the Lord also planned the death of Jesus for us. At the perfect time in history, God sent Jesus into the world to die for us (Gal. 4:4).

Of that first meal, the Scripture says the Passover lamb "had to be sacrificed" (Luke 22:7). Just as lambs were sacrificed each year to remind the people that they needed their sins forgiven, Jesus, the Lamb of God, had to be sacrificed for our sins to be forgiven. We could not have our sins forgiven without Him. He is "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).

The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



What does the Lord's involvement in the planning of the first Lord's Supper say to you about the importance of this meal for us?

Luke 22:14-18

Jesus told the disciples that He “fervently desired” to eat the Passover with them before He suffered. He knew the cross was before Him. He knew the suffering and shame He was going to endure, and in the midst of that horror, He “fervently desired” to eat this sacred meal with His disciples, which would commemorate His blood being spilled, because “without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness” (Heb. 9:22).

He desired to be with His disciples for this memorial meal and to share with them the significance of His coming death. He desires to be with us too, which is why He died—so we could know Him and be known by Him. His blood had to be spilled so we could be forgiven of our sins. He had to be condemned in His body so there would be “no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 8:1).

What does the phrase “fervently desired” say to you about God’s desire to enjoy a relationship with you?

John 13:1-20

The Gospel of John is the only Gospel that does not record any of Jesus’ parables. In his book about the Gospel of John, *Parable of Joy*, Michael Card commented that this is because all of Jesus’ life was a parable to John—all that Jesus did was a sermon for John. Jesus taught through His life and John recorded all that he learned. The loudest, most impactful “parable” is recorded in John 13, when Jesus washed the feet of His disciples. When Jesus washed feet, He took off His outer garments, knelt before His disciples, and carried out the lowly task of washing their dirty feet. When Jesus served us, He took off His kingly garments and His royal crown and He stepped into our world. He stooped low and put on human skin. He took on the humiliating death of crucifixion to bring us to Himself. We have been served by Jesus, and we are now to serve others.

Who can you serve this week as you remember how Christ has served you?

Luke 22:19

When Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper, He took the bread and proclaimed it as His body given for us. When the apostle Paul opened his letter to the church in Galatia, he wrote: "Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father" (Gal. 1:3-4).

Jesus Christ giving Himself for us is what separates the Christian faith from every other religion. Every other religion is about human beings' attempts to earn their way to the heights of spiritual attainment, giving ourselves to God in such a way that God will approve of us and accept us, for example. The message of the Christian faith is not about our giving or our doing but about Christ having given Himself for us.

Why is it so hard for people to believe the core message of the Christian faith—that Jesus Christ gave Himself for us?

Luke 22:20-23

One of Jesus' disciples, Peter, was at the first Lord's Supper when Jesus declared that His blood was going to be poured out for the forgiveness of sins. Peter later wrote: "For you know that you were redeemed from your empty way of life inherited from your fathers, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of an unblemished and spotless lamb." (1 Pet. 1:18-19).

Jesus took our sins and the punishment for those sins upon Himself so that we would be redeemed and set free. C. S. Lewis wrote, "It costs God nothing, so far as we know, to create nice things: but to convert rebellious wills cost Him crucifixion."¹ When God wanted to create the world, He merely had to declare, "Let there be light." When He wanted to make us His sons and daughters, it cost Jesus His life and His blood.

What are you motivated by gratitude to do because of the cross and death of Jesus for sinners?

¹C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (New York: Touchstone, 1980), 181.