

Home Church Questions

Listen

1. This is our first Home Church, so why don't we learn a little bit about each other? What fills everyone's week?
2. What stood out to you from Sunday? Was there anything significant?
3. Was there an element of time together on Sunday that connected with your week or something that you experienced?

Learn

1. Jesus uses the ancient ritual of the Passover meal to teach about his coming suffering and death. How might this have confused or clarified things for the disciples who were with him?
2. Check out your notes: Old Story vs. New Story. How does Jesus swap out the characters and bring new meaning to life as we know it?

Live

1. The church has found our identity in being welcomed to a common table and breaking bread with other followers of Jesus. How does this impact our 24/7 living?
2. As we allow the presence of Christ to tend to us during the time of communion, we learn how to bring His presence into our interactions with others. Take turns practicing some of these suggestions for bringing Christ's presence into your interaction within your Home Church setting:
 - encourage each other
 - share what God is doing in your own life
 - share a scripture passage
 - share what you love/admire/appreciate/respect about someone in the group
 - point out someone's gifts
 - ask how you can pray for each other

Communion

Faith Community Church // October 1, 2017

This morning we will be using the Last Supper (the Passover meal that Jesus shared with his followers before his crucifixion) as a guide for us to enter into the ancient practice of communion and the meaning behind it.

Communion helps us order our life's chaos through the lens of the cross. As we are present to Christ's presence, He reorients our perspective.

Traditional Hebrew Blessing

"May you be blessed, Lord our God, king of the world, who creates the fruit of the vine."

Luke 22:15-16

He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

Instead of looking back at the story of Israel, Jesus looks ahead at his suffering and links it with God's Kingdom.

BREAD

Luke 22:19

Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Jesus is proclaiming that in some mysterious way, His death is going to bring about life.

THE MAROR AND THE KARPAS

The Maror is a bitter herb that helped the Israelites remember the bitterness of slavery, and participate in the suffering of their ancestors.

The Karpas is a leafy vegetable that is dipped into salt water. It reminded the Israelites of the injustice that led them to Egypt in the first place.

Christ's body was broken because of the injustice in the world. In response, the early church would have an element of confession and forgiveness every time they partook of the communion.

LAMB

Luke 22:20

And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

God bringing justice and deliverance was viewed through the presence of the lamb. It was seen as God reaching down to pull the Israelites out of their slavery, bringing justice to a very unjust system, and exposing the cycle of violence.

THE DEATH OF JESUS AS A NEW EXODUS

Old Story:

Through the lamb,

God saves the Israelites,

From slavery to Pharaoh.

New Story:

Through Jesus,

God saves the whole world,

From the power of sin + death.

In his final meal with his followers, Jesus uses the ancient Passover meal to explain his coming suffering and death. He is the lamb who provides a way to be freed from our slavery to the tyrant within.