



| FAMILY COMMUNION GUIDE |

WHAT IS COMMUNION?

At Christ Community Church, we believe communion is one of two “ordinances” of the church. Baptism is the other. An ordinance is basically a directive (something you do because someone tells you to do it) or command. Communion is an ordinance because it is something Jesus commanded – ordained – that the church should practice. Communion is a ceremony that the church observes and practices as a sign of the grace God has shown to us. Communion is a way for those of us who have experienced the saving grace of Jesus to remember and celebrate what Jesus did for us when he died on the cross and God raised him from the dead. Sometimes we include communion as part of our worship to God during the service in the auditorium.

So what is communion? Communion is when people who have made the choice to live their lives for Jesus and follow him do something pretty special and unique. We will eat something, most of the time a wafer or a small piece of bread to remember that Jesus body was beaten and broken because of his love for us. When we do this the wafer or bread represents Jesus body.

We will also drink something, usually grape juice, to remember that Jesus bled because of his love for us. When we do this the juice represents Jesus blood.

Communion also has other names. Sometimes communion is called “the Lord’s Supper.” Sometimes communion is called the “Eucharist” which means giving thanks.

WHY DO WE TAKE COMMUNION?

Communion is our way of re-enacting the last supper that Jesus had with the disciples before he was arrested. That is why it is sometimes called, “the Lord’s Supper.” We can read about this meal with Jesus and the disciples in Matthew 26:17-30, Mark 14:12-26, Luke 22:7-23 and 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

Not only was this something that Jesus did with his disciples, but he said to them, “Do this in remembrance of me.” (Luke 22:19, 1 Corinthians 11:24-25)

So that is what we do. We include communion in our church services sometimes as a special way to remember who Jesus is and what Jesus has done.

Not only that, but in 1 Corinthians 11:26 the Bible says, “For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”

So when we take communion, we are telling people about how Jesus died for us.

Communion is also a special time for us to thank Jesus for sacrificing his life for ours on the cross.

WHO SHOULD TAKE COMMUNION?

Only people who love Jesus, who have begun a relationship with him by putting their faith and trust in Jesus should take communion. Only people who have asked Jesus to forgive their sins and have made a promise to God that they are going to live the rest of their lives to worship God and obey God should take communion.

The reason communion is an ordinance of the church is because only people who are part of the church should take communion and taking communion is one of the things that show we are part of the church.

So how do you truly become part of the church? Not by simply coming to church. Someone becomes part of the church when they surrender their entire life to Jesus, ask God to forgive their sins and the Holy Spirit gives them strength and wisdom to obey.

If that describes you, it is ok for you to take communion. If that does not describe you, then you should wait.

That is very important. Communion is a serious act of worship and thanks to God. It is not a snack. In fact, read 1 Corinthians 11:27-32 to see what the Bible has to say about how serious communion is. According to those verses, what should someone do before they take communion?

WHAT'S NEXT?

First, think about your life and your heart. Do you have a relationship with Jesus? Have you decided to let him be the ruler and Lord of your life? Have you decided that you are going to live your life to follow and obey him? Have you told him you are sorry for disobeying him and asked him to forgive you?

If you can answer all those questions with a, "Yes!" and you feel like you understand what communion is and why we do it, and your parents agree with you, then you should talk about taking communion when it is offered in a service in the Auditorium.

If you answered, "No." to those questions, then you should not take communion and talk with your parents or a leader in KidsWorld about why you answered no instead of yes.