



LEADING COMMUNION

HOW DO I LEAD MY COMMUNITY IN COMMUNION?

Breaking bread together as a community is a deeply spiritual and relational milestone. For some Communities serving communion will allow every member to feel like a valid expression of church. Here is a simple guide to help you as you lead your people through communion.

Communion

1. Respectful Preparation. Every believer since the first ones has taken communion so respect the process. Find good vessels, elements (bread & juice) and set it out in a respectful way. Your attitude, even behind the scenes, affects the spiritual temperature as the group comes to the Lord's Table.

2. Give Context. It's not time for a sermon but you need to take a few moments to explain why you are celebrating communion as a community. (This especially will be important if this is not normal for your group.) One way is to use your own experience to say something about God's love, forgiveness, grace, etc...then connect it to your group. For example, "These past few weeks I've experienced God's mercy in the way he untangled the situation with my son. And I've seen God show mercy to others of us here too, especially to Jean and Roger." If you prefer, you can write down ahead of time what you want to say. Remember; keep it short, clear and just enough to give context.

3. Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 *The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

4. Respond. Pray silently and allow people to take the elements either by passing them around or letting them go to the elements when they are ready. Either dipping the bread or eating in unison as a group can be done. You may want to reflect quietly, sing a simple praise song or listen to a worship song.

5. Conclude. Give a benediction, final prayer or have a time of prayer in thanks to God.

6. Disposal. If all the bread and juice is not consumed take time to respectfully dispose or consume the remains.