



Review Assignments for this Packet on the **Lord's Supper**

FAITH BUILDERS

Assignments and Dates

Session #1 -What is the Lord's Supper

Memorize: Lord's Supper "Institution" and explanation

Complete: Packet pages 2-3

Session #2 - What Does The Lord's Supper Do and How

Memorize: Lord's Supper "Blessing" and explanation

Complete: Packet pages 4-5

Session #3 - Who Can Take the Lord's Supper

Complete: Packet pages

Memorize

Lord's Supper "Power" and explanation

Session #4 - WHAT RELATIONSHIPS DO WE CELEBRATE IN THE LORD'S SUPPER?

Complete: Packet pages 6-9

Memorize

"Reception" and explanation

Review Questions on pg. 10. This will help you for next week's exam.

Session #5

Exam on the Lord's Supper

Notes:

1. This packet is **not** to be turned in to the pastor.
2. Turn in the weekly Bible reading sheet only. This will be given to you each week at class.
3. Use this packet to study the materials. You can review the lesson online and find the answer key to this packet.
4. There will be weekly quizzes.



The Lord's Supper

FAITH BUILDERS

In the previous lesson we looked at how God offers the forgiveness through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. We saw how God joins ordinary water together with his Word for the purpose of creating or strengthening faith. In this lesson we'll look at yet another way God offers the forgiveness of sins to his people — through the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. In our study we'll need to answer the following questions.

- ◆ What is the Lord's Supper?
- ◆ What does the Lord's Supper do?
- ◆ Who should take the Lord's Supper?
- ◆ What relationships do we celebrate in the Lord's Supper?

WHAT IS THE LORD'S SUPPER?

There are four places where the events of Maunday Thursday evening (the night Christ instituted the Lord's Supper) are described — Matthew, Mark, Luke, and 1 Corinthians. It is beneficial to see these accounts side-by-side. Please read through those portions of Scripture using the special sheet, "The Account of the Lord's Supper" at the end of this packet. Then use that sheet to answer these questions.

- 1) All of those accounts describe Jesus giving his disciples four distinct things. Look at the underlined portions of Luke 22:19, Matthew 26:26, Mark 14:22, and 1 Corinthians 11:23. What is one thing Jesus gave to the disciples in the Lord's Supper?

Bread

- 2) Now look at the *italicized* portions of Luke 22:19, Matthew 26:26, Mark 14:22, and 1 Corinthians 11:24. What is another thing Jesus gave to the disciples in the Lord's Supper?

His body

- 3) Look at the underlined portions of Luke 22:20, Matthew 26:27, Mark 14:23, and 1 Corinthians 11:25. What is a third thing Jesus gave to the disciples in the Lord's Supper?

The cup

- 4) The contents of that cup is given in the ***bold italic*** portions of Luke 22:18, Matthew 26:29 and Mark 14:25. Those contents would have been fermented, since they had no refrigeration at that time. What would the contents of that cup have been, therefore?

wine

- 5) Now look at the *italicized* portions of Luke 22:20, Matthew 26:28, Mark 14:24, and 1 Corinthians 11:25. What is a fourth thing Jesus gave to the disciples in the Lord's Supper?

His blood

- 6) Carefully look at all of those portions of Scripture again. Is there anything to indicate that Jesus is speaking figuratively in any of these sections?

no

- 7) Look closely at 1 Corinthians 11:27. Paul is not talking about just the original Lord’s Supper, but about the way the people would celebrate it in Corinth (and today, for that matter). He says that if you take the Lord’s Supper in an “unworthy manner” you are sinning against something. What?
The body and blood of the Lord
- 8) Look closely at 1 Corinthians 11:29. Paul says that there is something that you should recognize is present in the Lord’s Supper, lest you “eat and drink judgement” on yourself. What should you recognize?
The body and blood of the Lord
- 9) Looking again at 1 Corinthians 11:27-29, is there anything to indicate that Paul is writing figuratively when he warns us about “sinning against the body and blood of the Lord”?

no

On the basis of what we have looked so far, how would you answer that question, “WHAT IS THE LORD’S SUPPER?”

It is the body and blood of Jesus together with the bread and wine

THE LORD’S SUPPER IS A MIRACLE WHEREBY GOD JOINS THE EARTHLY ELEMENTS OF _____ BREAD _____ AND _____ WINE _____ TOGETHER WITH THE HEAVENLY ELEMENTS OF CHRIST’S _____ BODY _____ AND _____ BLOOD _____. THE BIBLE TEACHES WE RECEIVE ALL THESE ELEMENTS, EARTHLY AND HEAVENLY, IN THE MIRACLE OF THE LORD’S SUPPER.

This teaching of God’s Word is commonly referred to as the doctrine of Real Presence. The union of the heavenly and earthly elements is the reason the Lord’s Supper is often called “Holy Communion.”

✓ **DEFINITION: Real Presence** — *The miraculous presence of Jesus’ real body with the bread and of his real blood with the wine in the Lord’s Supper.*

✓ **DEFINITION: Holy Communion** — *The sacrament in which the body and blood of Jesus Christ are given to us “in union with” with bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins.*

Sadly, this is not what all Christian denominations teach. The following chart summarizes the three main different teachings concerning the Lord’s Supper.

<i>Who teaches it:</i>	THE BIBLE	ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH	REFORMED CHURCHES
<i>Name of the doctrine:</i>	Real Presence	Transubstantiation	Representation
<i>Summary of the Doctrine:</i>	Partakers of the Lord’s Supper receive the body and blood of our Lord “in, with, and under” the bread and wine.	Partakers of the Lord’s Supper receive only the body and blood of Christ	Partakers of the Lord’s Supper receive only the bread and wine, which are symbolic of the body and blood of Christ
<i>Reason for belief in the doctrine:</i>	Matthew 26:26-29 Mark 14:22-25 Luke 22:18-20 1 Corinthians 11:23-29	False belief that the Lord’s Supper is not a sacrament, but a sacrifice. Christ is “re-sacrificed” over and over for the forgiveness of sins.	Human reason

For more information about arguments leveled against the doctrine of Real Presence please see Appendix X.

WHAT DOES THE LORD'S SUPPER DO?

- 10) Please use the special sheet to look at Luke 22:20, Matthew 26:28, Mark 14:24, and 1 Corinthians 11:25. According to the boldface portions of those passages, what are we assured of when we partake of Christ's body and blood?

The forgiveness of our sins

Let's look closer at what that means. Please read the following passages and then answer the corresponding questions.

Matthew 26:28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Hebrews 9:15 For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins...

Romans 11:27 And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins.

1 John 1:7 The *blood* of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

Romans 5:9 Since we have now been justified by *his blood*, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

Ephesians 1:7 In him we have redemption through *his blood*, the forgiveness of sins.

1 Peter 2:24 He himself bore our sins in *his body* on the tree... by his wounds you have been healed.

1 Peter 3:18 He was put to death in *the body*.

1 Peter 4:1 Therefore, since Christ suffered in *his body*, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in *his body* is done with sin.

- 11) According to the underlined portions of those passages, what is the message of the "new covenant"?
Our forgiveness

- 12) According to the italicized portions of those passages, how did Jesus win that for us?
By offering His body and shedding His blood on the cross

- 13) Therefore, the message of the Lord's Supper is intended to give us awesome comfort by assuring us of something. According to the the double-underlined portions of those passages, is forgiveness for sins something that we look forward to, or is it something that is already accomplished?

It is already accomplished

On the basis of what we have learned in this portion of our Bible study, how would you answer that question, "WHAT DOES THE LORD'S SUPPER DO?"

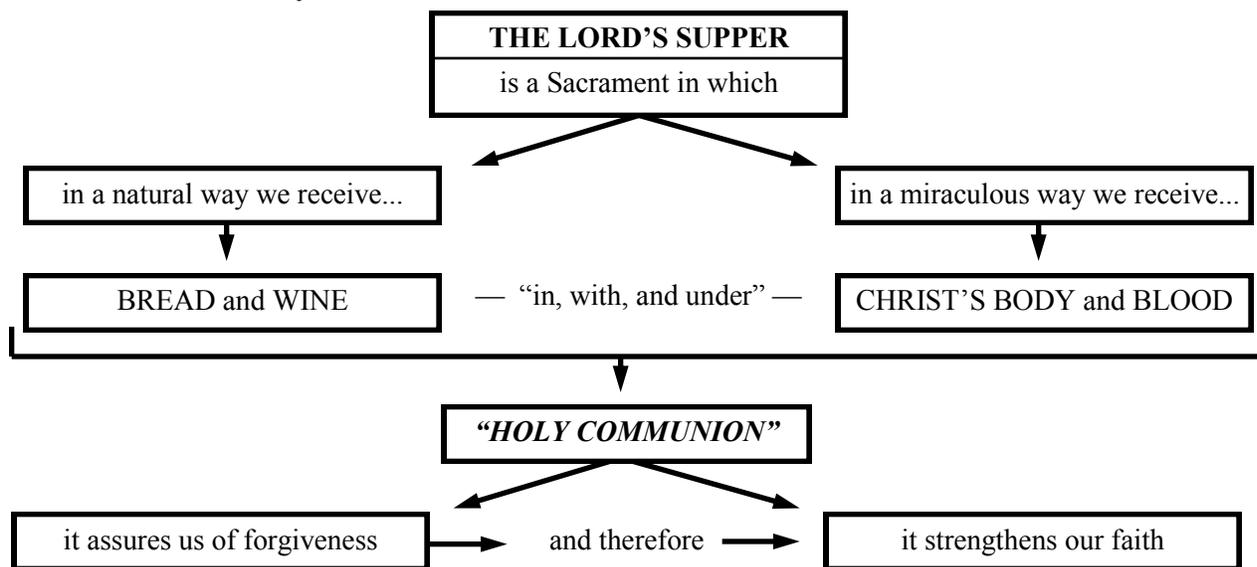
Forgives our sin or assures us of our forgiveness

THE LORD'S Supper assures us that...

Jesus shed His blood and offered His body

by allowing us to partake of Christ's... Body and blood

You could illustrate it this way.



How Can The Lord’s Supper Do These Things?

Please read the following passages and then answer the corresponding questions.

Isaiah 55:11 so is *my word* that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Romans 10:17 Consequently, *faith comes from hearing the message*, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

1) According to the italicized portions of those verses, how is faith created?

Through the Gospel

Psalm 119:28 My soul is weary with sorrow; *strengthen me according to your word.*

1 Thessalonians 3:2 We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God’s fellow worker in spreading *the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith.* (Note: Paul is not saying that Timothy himself has the power to strengthen faith. Rather, the Gospel that Timothy shares strengthens faith.)

3) According to the italicized portions of those passages, what else does God’s word do?

God strengthens and encourages our faith

How is this possible? How can God’s word have such great power? Please read the following passage and then answer the corresponding questions.

1 Corinthians 12:3 No one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 16:16,17 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”
Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for *this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.*”

5) According to the italicized portions of those verses, who is responsible for creating saving faith in our hearts?

The Holy Spirit

6) Look at Luther’s “The Power of Holy Communion.” What is the word of God that gives Communion its power? *Jesus said, “take and eat.....”*

Therefore, the Lord's Supper is similar to baptism in that: 1) Jesus instituted it, and 2) God connects the promise of forgiveness to something we can touch. But the Bible also teaches that the Lord's Supper is different from Baptism in some ways. While Baptism is intended for "all nations" (cf. Matthew 28:19), the Bible places limitations on who should take the Lord's Supper. In the next portion of this Bible study we will look at...

WHO SHOULD TAKE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

1 Corinthians 11:27-29 Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of *sinning against the body and blood of the Lord*. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord *eats and drinks judgment on himself*.

- 14) What did we say was something a person could do when partaking the Lord's Supper? (Look at the italicized portions of those passages.)

He (she) could eat and drink judgment on himself

- 15) What is one thing a person could do which would result in taking the Lord's Supper in an "unworthy manner"? (Look at the underlined portion of those passages.)

Does not recognize the body and blood of Jesus

- 16) Therefore, what does the Bible say we should do before we take the Lord's Supper? (Look at the double-underlined portion of those passages.)

We should examine ourselves

It must be emphasized that the phrase "unworthy manner" does not mean "too sinful." We should never feel that because of our sins we are "unworthy" of taking the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is precisely for those who feel burdened by their sins and the guilt of their conscience. Rather, taking the Lord's Supper in an "unworthy manner" refers to the exact opposite — partaking of Christ's body and blood without believing you have a need for the forgiveness of sins.

The Scriptures therefore urge us to “examine” ourselves before we take the Lord’s Supper. Some logical questions we would ask ourselves would be...

- ... am I sorry for my sins? ⇒ **Psalm 38:18** I confess my iniquity; I am troubled by my sin.
- ... do I trust in Jesus as my Savior? ⇒ **Acts 15:11** “We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved.”
- ... do I believe that Christ’s body and blood are present in the Lord’s Supper to assure me of forgiveness? ⇒ **Matthew 26:28** “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for the many for the forgiveness of sins.”
- ... do I intend, with God’s help, to live a more God-pleasing life? ⇒ **Romans 6:1,2** What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means!

Sometimes people also have questions about how often they should receive the Lord’s Supper. Scripture is silent on this issue. But the following passages might be helpful in giving guidance in this area.

Romans 7:19 For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.

Matthew 11:28 “Come to me, all you who are *weary and burdened*, and I will give you rest.”

Matthew 26:28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

1 Corinthians 11:25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever [literally: “*as often as*”] you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

17) According to Romans 7:19, do I stop committing sins once I know my sins are forgiven?

No—we continue to be sinful

18) According to the italicized portions of Matthew 11:28, what do my sins do to my conscience?

Trouble it, bother it

19) According to the underlined portion of Matthew 11:28, what does God promise to do for us?

Gives us peace (rest) through forgiveness

20) According to Matthew 26:28, how does God do that for us in the Lord’s Supper?

By making a promise to forgive us

21) According to those passages, in combination with what 1 Corinthians 11:25 says would the Lord’s Supper be something we would take frequently or infrequently?

For the assurance of forgiveness and the strengthening of our faith.

On the basis of what we have seen in this portion of our Bible study, how would you answer that question, “WHO SHOULD TAKE THE LORD’S SUPPER?”

Those who can examine themselves and want the forgiveness of their sins

The final question for our consideration is...

WHAT RELATIONSHIPS DO WE CELEBRATE IN THE LORD'S SUPPER?

Please read the following passages and then answer the corresponding questions.

Colossians 1:21,22 Once *you were alienated* from God and were *enemies* in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.

Romans 5:10 For if, when we were God's *enemies*, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

2 Corinthians 5:18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ.

Romans 3:25 God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood.

DEFINITION: *to reconcile* — to restore someone to peace and harmony with another

✓ **DEFINITION:** *to atone* — to make a payment to remove the guilt of sin so that God and sinner may be "at one"

✓ 22) On the basis of the italicized portions of those passages, what was our relationship with God before he created faith in our hearts and made us his children?

23) We said that the Lord's Supper assures us of the forgiveness of sins. According to the underlined portions of those passages, what has that forgiveness done with our relationship with God?

Here are the passages that will help us determine the second relationship that we celebrate in the Lord's Supper. Please read these passages and then answer the corresponding questions.

1 Corinthians 10:17 *We, who are many, are one body*, for we all partake of one loaf.

Ephesians 4:4 *There is one body* and one Spirit -- just as you were called to one hope when you were called -- one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

Hebrews 10:23-25 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Romans 16:17 I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.

24) According to the italicized portions of those passages, what is another relationship we celebrate in the Lord's Supper?

Our relationship with God

25) According to the underlined portions of those passages, why is it so wonderful that Christians can come together in the Lord's Supper?

We have been reconciled to him

26) According to Romans 16:17 there would be a group of people with whom it would be inappropriate to partake of the Lord's Supper. Whom does the Bible say would be in this group?

Those that deny Jesus, His forgiveness or those who teach differently from us

On the basis of those passages, how would you answer that question, “WHAT RELATIONSHIPS DO WE CELEBRATE IN THE LORD’S SUPPER?”

You could illustrate it this way.



In Lord’s Supper we celebrate both the vertical relationship between God and his children and the horizontal relationship between fellow Christians. This relationship between Christians is based on *the confession* of their faith, since only God can see the faith itself. (“For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess...” Romans 10:10.) Therefore it is appropriate and desirable that fellow Christians study God’s Word together before communing together. The study of the Word and subsequent acknowledgement of unity of faith is a practice sometimes called “confirmation.” Celebrating the Lord’s Supper on the basis of this unity is known as “close communion.”

✓ **DEFINITION: confirmation** — a strengthening given in directed Bible study, after which an individual publicly confesses faith in Jesus and unity of faith with a body of believers

✓ **DEFINITION: close communion** — the practice of admitting to the Lord’s Supper only those who have, after a course of directed study, confessed faith in Jesus and unity of faith with the body of believers. The goal of this practice is to ensure that: a) the participant doesn’t take the Lord’s Supper in an “unworthy manner” and thereby damage the vertical relationship celebrated in the Lord’s Supper (cf. 1 Cor. 11:27), and b) the horizontal relationship celebrated in the Lord’s Supper may be maintained (cf. 1 Cor. 10:17).

For the traditional Lutheran confession concerning the Lord’s Supper, please see Martin Luther’s explanation of the Lord’s Supper as it’s found in the the Small Catechism. This is printed in Appendix XI.

TAKING IT DEEPER

- A) ~~Agree or Disagree~~ — The “Lord’s Supper” and “Communion” are two different names for the same thing.
- B) ~~Agree or Disagree~~ — Everyone who goes to the Lord’s Supper receives Jesus’ body and blood.
- C) ~~Agree or Disagree~~ — Everyone who goes to the Lord’s Supper receives the forgiveness of sins.
- D) ~~Agree or Disagree~~ — We should not go to Communion if we have sinned that day.
- E) ~~Agree or Disagree~~ — When we go to Communion we earn the forgiveness of sins.
- F) ~~Agree or Disagree~~ — We should not go to the Lord’s Supper if we don’t feel the need for it.
- G) **Question:** Look carefully at the different accounts of the Lord’s Supper that are printed on that special sheet. Specifically, look at what Jesus says before he distributes the Lord’s Supper in each of those accounts. How can we tell that those “words of institution” aren’t some magical incantation which we need to repeat exactly in order for the “real presence” to take place?

Even the writers of the Bible vary in the wording a little

- H) **Question:** God offers forgiveness through his Word. Why does he need to offer it in the Lord’s Supper as well?

We need as much assurance as we can get. He wants to tell us in many ways how much He loves us

- I) **Explain:** Some people might look at the practice of “close communion” and say it is unloving because it prevents some people from taking the Lord’s Supper temporarily. But on the basis of what we have learned in this study, explain how practicing close communion *actually shows love* to God’s Word and to the individual that we ask to wait. Explain how it would be *unloving* not to practice close communion.

It is loving to not give communion to those who are not properly prepared because receiving it in an unworthy way will cause the person to eat and drink judgment on themselves. We want them to receive God’s blessings not God’s judgment.



The Account of the Lord's Supper

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Luke 22:19, And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is *my body* given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

Matthew 26:26, While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is *my body*."

Mark 14:22, While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; *this is my body*."

1 Corinthians 11:23-24. For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: 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."

Luke 22:20, In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in *my blood*, which is poured out for you."

Matthew 26:27-28, Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. *This is my blood* of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

Mark 14:23, Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

1 Corinthians 11:25. 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."

Luke 22:18 For I tell you I will not drink again from the *fruit of the vine* until the kingdom of God comes."

Matthew 26:29 I tell you, I will not drink from this *fruit of the vine* from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Mark 14:25. "Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the *fruit of the vine* until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."