

SHINE Children's Ministry of FPCO

Communion Lesson

"Do this in REMEMBRANCE of me" Luke 22:19

Hello dear families!

In our church tradition, we regularly observe Communion as a church family. As your children grow, they will usually become more curious about what Communion is and want to participate with you. The Bible clearly cautions us to approach Communion with reverence and repentance and explaining it can be a daunting task for parents.

We offer this communion guide as a tool for you and your family to better understand Communion and why we celebrate it. Included are a written lesson and prayer, some discussion questions and a link to the accompanying teaching video that you can watch with your children. There are also some additional links to articles that you may find helpful in your family's discussion.

As a church staff, while we do not require a minimum age or 'First Communion' class, we do ask each family to discuss Communion as your children begin to show interest and trust you as parents to determine when your children are ready to participate.

As always, please feel free to reach out to us if you have questions or need additional resources. We pray for you regularly as you lead your children toward following Jesus.

In Christ,
SHINE staff

Communion

Lesson

Today is a special lesson and very important. I really invite you to listen very carefully. You probably have a Jesus Storybook Bible and have read it, even many times! One of the themes of this Bible is 'every story whispers His name'. This means that all throughout the Bible, beginning even in Genesis, the promise was made that JESUS would come. Near the beginning of this bible storybook, there is a story titled "The Terrible Lie". This tells us the story of how Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command and ate from the forbidden tree in the garden. God had warned them that this disobedience would result in sadness and pain and death. At first, Adam and Eve tried to cover up their sin, or fix it, which didn't work. Because of their disobedience, they had to leave the garden and they would eventually die, they and all the people that would come after them too. But as they were leaving, God whispered a promise- "I'm coming back for you." One day God himself would come. This promise meant that God would rescue his people from their sin (disobedience) problem to overcome sin and even death!

There are many signs throughout the Old Testament that point to this promise. Today, we are going to learn about a very special clue or sign that was given in the time of Moses, which was also mentioned by John the Baptist, and was then fulfilled by Jesus. We still remember this sign today in our church services in the form of a special meal or sacrament (holy service) called communion.

Now I mentioned John the Baptist, he uses a very special name to refer to Jesus. Listen to John, From the book of John 1:29 John was with some of his followers and he sees Jesus coming toward him, he says, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!"

The Lamb of God. That may sound odd to us, but remember that special name that was used to refer to Jesus. Why would John call Jesus the 'lamb of God'? To understand this, we go all the way back to Moses' time.

I bet you know most of Moses' story (Exodus 1-14) but just in case, we are going to review some of it. You probably know that God told Moses to go to Egypt, where the Israelites (God's chosen people) were enslaved to tell Pharaoh to let His people go. The King of Egypt, called Pharaoh, refused to let God's people leave Egypt to return to the land of their great grandparents, a land where God wanted them to live.

You see, because everyone (Egyptians and Israelites) had this sin problem, God warned Moses that the time would come when He would soon judge the land of Egypt. God was being merciful to send a warning, not just to Moses but to Pharaoh too. God was even going to send plagues (bad things) to give warning signs to Pharaoh. Sadly, Pharaoh still kept refusing to believe God. There would be ten plagues total but the last one would be the most terrible of all.

- God was going to judge the sin of the land of Egypt and the judgment would result in death
- He was going to send the Angel of Death to kill every firstborn person (son) and animal in all the land of Egypt
- He told Moses to tell His people to prepare so they would be spared from this terrible event—God was going to provide a way for them to be rescued from their sin
- God told Moses to tell each family to sacrifice a lamb and roast it for a meal
- He also commanded them to paint the blood of the Lamb on the doorposts of their homes and when the Angel of Death saw the blood on the doorposts, he would “pass over” their homes and the first born would not die, because a lamb had died in their place. Death still came to the Israelite homes, but the lamb that died served as a substitute for the first born.
- The Israelites obeyed; they sacrificed their lambs and they painted the lamb’s blood on their door posts to show there was a substitute.
- This event was so significant that God commanded they celebrate every single year with a meal to REMEMBER what God had done to free them from their slavery and bring them out of Egypt. This meal was a sign of their deliverance. This meal/celebration was called the Passover.

But this meal always was intended by God to be a whisper of something to come.

When we get to the time of Jesus, we can read in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) about Jesus’ last Passover meal with His disciples. He sent the disciples ahead to prepare the meal, which we read in Luke 22.

Jesus knew that this meal was THE most important celebration of the year. Every Jew participated in it because it was the sign of God’s deliverance of the people from their slavery and escape from Egypt. Every year they ate the meal to remember what God had done for them and to remember that the lamb died as their substitute. God had provided a way for them to escape judgment. Everyone knew the ritual and routine of the meal.

And then Jesus does something NEW.

He changes the ritual of the meal from a celebration of what had already happened, to what He was about to do.

If you look in your Bible. from Luke, Chapter 22:7-20, you can read what happens:

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." 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.

He says to His disciples: Eat this meal in remembrance of Me. Tell this story to everyone else so that they will know. Know that the cup (filled with wine) represents my blood poured out for the sins of my people. And the bread represents my body, which is broken for my people. By saying these things, Jesus was telling His disciples that very soon, He would die on the cross. He was going to be their passover lamb- but his sacrifice would pay for our sin once and for all. There was no need to continue the sacrifice of lambs to escape the judgment of death because the Lamb of God was going to die. And sure enough, the very next day, He was arrested, tried and crucified. While He was on the cross, he suffered in His body. His body was hurt and broken and His wounds bled.

There are two parts to this sign: the blood and the body: the cup and the bread. Today, in our worship services, we eat this meal together to remember what Jesus has done for us. It is OUR SIGN to remember that He rescued us from our slavery to sin and death and brings us into God's family. **We call this the New Covenant in Jesus Christ.**

WHY do we celebrate Jesus' DEATH?

It might seem strange to celebrate Jesus' death on the cross. When I celebrate this meal, this communion, I remember that because of my sin, I face God's judgment of death. I also remember that Jesus died in my place and He took the punishment (judgment) for my sin. He died on the cross so that I could be forgiven for my sin. Like the lamb died as a substitute for the first born of the Israelites, Jesus died as our substitute to pay for our sin so that I can be a part of God's family.

I BECOME PART OF GOD'S FAMILY by:

ADMIT: I *admit* that I am a sinner and that I need a Savior. Admit that you do things that are wrong by disobeying God's commands. Admit that you cannot stop disobeying God's commands on your own and that you need someone to forgive you when you disobey (sin). Understand that the good things we do are not good enough to balance out the bad. You cannot earn forgiveness of sins. Although we try to solve our sin problem on our own, we cannot fix the problem, only God can.

(Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23; Isaiah 64:6)

BELIEVE: Believe that Jesus is the only Savior who can truly forgive your sins. Believe that Jesus is the Son of God who came to earth to take on the punishment for our sins by dying on the cross and that He overcame death by rising from the dead on the third day. Jesus rose from the dead!! He has power over sin and death. Jesus' resurrection is the necessary proof to show that His payment for sin was full and final. There is no further sacrifice required.

(Romans 5:8, Romans 10:9-10, Ephesians 2:8-10, 2 Corinthians 5:21, John 1:12)

COMMIT: Out of your love for Jesus and all that He has done for you, you commit to follow Jesus and live your life the way Jesus tells you to. Jesus commands you to follow Him. Understand that the Holy Spirit will help you follow Jesus. You may not hear God's voice speaking to you but you can hear His voice in the Bible which is God's written Word. Understand that when you sin, you are able to repent (turn away from your sin and turn to God's ways) and believe (believe that you are forgiven). Then you can experience God's grace, forgiveness and victory over sin (and death). (1 John 1:8-10, Romans 8:1-2, John 15:4-5, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 2:20)

When we admit, believe and commit, we become part of His family. And when we become part of God's family, He invites us to come to the communion table to celebrate what He has done for us through Jesus.

Let's pray.

Father, thank you that you have given us whispers of Jesus all throughout your Bible. Thank you that Jesus came to pay the penalty for my sin, that he is my substitute, he died and rose again so that I can live eternally with you in the new heavens and the new earth. I believe this is true: A, B and C! Help me to take communion seriously, to approach it with reverence, respect, gratefulness, and love for you and to grow in my understanding of all that you have done for me. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Questions for family discussion:

1. Have you ever been curious about communion? What were some questions you had?
2. How is the story of Adam and Eve's disobedience in the garden connected to Jesus?
3. Retell (or read in Exodus 1-14) the story of Moses and the Israelites' escape from Egypt. What was your favorite part? Why is this story important to us today?
4. Why does John the Baptist call Jesus 'the Lamb of God'?
5. Why do we celebrate Communion? Do you think you are ready? Why or why not?

Communion Lesson Video

<http://bit.ly/shinecommunion>

Additional Resources

- "5 Questions to Ask When Your Child Professes Faith" by Scott Slayton from The Gospel Coalition

**click on the title to view these resources*