



North Shore
BIBLE CHURCH

COMMUNION

A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE OF A COMPLETE
SALVATION BY GRACE ALONE, THROUGH FAITH
ALONE, IN JESUS ALONE!

STUDY GUIDE

understanding the importance
of obedience to Jesus' commands

OVERVIEW

IMPORTANCE

The church carries on the role of the first disciples of Jesus to "teach them to obey all that I commanded you" (Matthew 28:19). Jesus commanded His followers to wash one another's feet, and share the bread and the cup during a meal (Matthew 26; John 13).

This practice was carried on by the early church (1 Corinthians 11:17-34; 1 Timothy 5:10...). We believe that there is great blessing & understanding that comes through a commitment to obeying our great God! (John 13:7 & 17; John 7:17). We love this unique celebration, that pictures such a complete salvation!

MEANING

Communion is : 1) A Picture that helps us understand deep spiritual truths, 2) A Physical action that demonstrates our obedience to Jesus. & 3) Something to be taken seriously (1 Corinthians 11:27-31). This is a special time for those who have a relationship w/ God through faith in Jesus.

The Bible does not teach that we earn any merit before God, or somehow makeup for our sins through our obedience. We know that our sins were already paid for by Jesus on the cross. Neither is Communion some kind of mystical ritual. It is a wonderful time of worship that is intended to be a regular practice of the church. We love remembering what we have in common because of Jesus!

PARTS OF THE COMMUNION CELEBRATION:

"DURING
SUPPER"

WE SHARE
A MEAL
TOGETHER
AS THEY DID

"BEGAN TO
WASH"

WE WASH ONE
ANOTHER'S
FEET
AS THEY DID

"TOOK SOME
BREAD..."

WE SHARE
THE BREAD
& THE CUP
AS THEY DID

THE BREAD & THE CUP

A picture given to help us remember
what Jesus did when He lived, died &
rose again to reconcile us to God

READ THE PASSAGES:

Read each of the following sections of the Bible, and write down
any observations you have concerning the bread & the cup:

Luke 22:19-20

Matthew 26:26-30

Mark 14:22-26

I Corinthians 11:23-26

REFLECT:

Now that you've seen what the Bible has to say about the church sharing the bread
& the cup together, what does God want you to think, say, or do, when it comes to
this?

WHY?

THE BREAD & THE CUP

A picture given to help us remember what Jesus did when He lived, died & rose again to reconcile us to God

THE SETTING:

The Bread and Cup followed the meal that they shared together. This is sometimes called the Love Feast or Lord's Supper. Jesus took bread and a cup to use in a symbolic way with His disciples.

THE ACTION:

He took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and explained the significance of His action. He then took the cup and repeated His action (I Cor. 11:25).

THE EXPLANATION:

The bread symbolizes His body which He willingly sacrificed on the cross (Luke 22:19) to pay the price for the sins of the world. The cup symbolizes the New Covenant privileges which were made possible by the blood that Jesus shed on the cross (Luke 22:20; Hebrews 8:6), and extended to all nations (Rom. 11:18-27).

*Our sharing in this together is a beautiful picture of the finished work of Jesus on the cross, that is intended to be a perpetual practice done in remembrance of Jesus (I Cor. 11: 5-26).



A picture given to help us remember that even though we've been made right with God, we still have need of confession & forgiveness day by day.

READ THE PASSAGES:

Read each of the following sections of the Bible, and write down any observations you have concerning washing feet:

John 13:5-11

John 13:12-17

1 Timothy 5:10

1 John 1:9

REFLECT:

Now that you've seen what the Bible has to say about the church washing one another's feet, what does God want you to think, say, or do, when it comes to this?

WHY?

WASHING FEET

A picture given to help us remember that even though we've been made right with God, we still have need of confession & forgiveness day by day

THE SETTING:

Jesus got up from the table (not at the door as He would have if this was a normal custom of the day). This was the same meal, as noted before, that is sometimes called the Love Feast or Lord's Supper. This too was intended to be symbolic in nature, as Jesus said that He gave the disciples "an example..." (John 13:15).

THE ACTION:

After they had already sat down, Jesus, "got up..." and "began to wash the disciples' feet..." including Judas (John 13:4-5).

THE EXPLANATION:

The physical picture contrasts washing your feet that get dirty as you walk, with bathing completely. Full bathing isn't necessary every time that your feet get dirty.

The spiritual picture is that when we first receive Jesus as our Savior by grace, through faith, we are made clean. We however still sin (1 John 1:8). We need daily cleansing from this sin, as we confess it to God, and receive His forgiveness. God is just in this forgiveness (1 John 1:9) because Jesus already paid for those sins (1 John 2:1-2).

Our sharing in this together is truly a unique blessing, and a great picture of God's faithfulness to forgive us our sins, that also was continued as a perpetual practice in the church (1 Timothy 5:10).

THE LOVE FEAST

A symbolic meal that reminds believers of the reality of the permanent union of The Bride (the Church) to Her Groom (Jesus Christ).

READ THE PASSAGES:

Read each of the following sections of the Bible, and write down any observations you have concerning the Love Feast:

Luke 22:1-23

I Corinthians 11:20-34

Jude 12

2 Peter 2:13

Revelation 19:9

REFLECT:

Now that you've seen what the Bible has to say about the church sharing in this symbolic meal together, what does God want you to think, say, or do, when it comes to this?

WHY?

THE LOVE FEAST

A symbolic meal that reminds believers of the reality of the permanent union of The Bride (the Church) to Her Groom (Jesus Christ).

THE SETTING:

This meal took place the night before Jesus' crucifixion. Jesus and the disciples were eating the Last Supper together (I Cor. 11:20). It was a full meal ("supper": John 13:2, 4; I Cor. 11:20, 21, 25) during which the symbols of the feet-washing & the bread & the cup were implemented.

The term "table" found in I Cor. 10:21 points to a full meal which accompanied the bread and cup (v. 16-21).

THE ACTION:

"As they were eating" (Matthew 26:21) they engaged in conversation together about serving others, commitment to Jesus, upcoming events, & their future together.

THE EXPLANATION:

Luke 22:28-30 connects the "Last Supper" with a future meal (Rev. 19:9).

The intended purpose of this meal is fellowship, not to satisfy hunger (I Cor. 11:17-34 *esp. v. 22, 33-34). To engage in selfish indulgence would be so foreign to the purpose of this meal, that it would be as though we weren't even sharing this unique meal at all (1 Cor. 11:20).

The book of Acts demonstrates both the importance of breaking bread (Sharing a meal together; Acts 2:46) & breaking the bread (remembering Jesus' sacrifice of His own body for us; Acts 2:42). The Love Feast provides a special time to share about our lives, and rejoice in our future together with Jesus, as we look forward to our glorification when we see Him (1 John 3:1-3)!



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QUESTIONS

A FEW QUESTIONS THAT MAY HELP YOU
AS YOU CONSIDER ENGAGING WITH US
IN THIS UNIQUE SERVICE OF WORSHIP

DON'T MANY CHURCHES JUST DO THE BREAD & CUP?

Yes, it is true that many other's choose to only use the bread & the cup. We celebrate those who remember Jesus, & their justification as they practice the bread & the cup. We also choose to hold onto the blessing of this unique God-given picture of a full & glorious salvation (Justification, Sanctification, & glorification).

"If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them." (John 13:17).

DIDN'T JESUS WASH FEET TO SHOW HUMILITY?

While this certainly can be a beautiful picture of selflessness & humility, we believe that Jesus clearly spoke of physical cleansing as an example of spiritual cleansing (John 13:10-11). Humility is crucial to the Christian life, however, it is in our obedience to Jesus' command to wash one another's feet (John 13:14) that we demonstrate this humility (John 13:16-17).

WHAT TO EXPECT!

If you've never been to a 3-part communion service, these may be new thoughts for you. That's ok. We love you, and if you'd prefer to just come and check it out the first time, that's ok. We'll welcome you in as you are comfortable. Our only request is that you know that your sins have been forgiven once & for all through the death & resurrection of Jesus Christ.