

## 7. VISION: Lord's Supper/ Break bread



Focus	Purpose	Key Message
<p>The communal and frequent remembrance of Jesus' sacrifice and the proclamation of His return.</p>	<p>To teach disciples how to practice the Lord's Supper simply, frequently, and inclusively, as a core command of Jesus.</p>	<p>The Lord's Supper is a simple, shared act of remembrance and proclamation that should be celebrated often by all who honor Jesus.</p>

The Lord's Supper is a command from Jesus (Matthew 26:26-28) to remember His broken body and His blood poured out for the forgiveness of sins. It is also a proclamation of the Lord's death "till He comes" (1 Corinthians 11:26).

Read 1 Corinthians 11:17 – 34.

Ask: Where are non-believers mentioned in this passage?

Ask: What was the problem the church in Corinth was having regarding communion?

Ask: What solution does Paul give to the problem?

Ask: What is the right heart attitude to have to take communion?

Ask: Could a pre-believer still want to 'remember' Christ but not be completely ready to repent for some other reason? In other words, could someone be willing to taste and see that the Lord is good but not be totally surrendered and following Jesus yet?

Read John 13: 18 – 30.

Ask: Did Jesus let his own betrayer take communion with him?

Ask: If Judas can take communion, then is anyone prohibited?

The Lord's Supper is a non-negotiable command, and a church is not fully planted until it is observing this practice. It should be done often, in simple ways, using whatever elements are readily available (e.g., bread and juice/wine, or local equivalents). It is open to anyone who wants to honor Jesus.

Paul chastised the Corinthian church for their divisions and self-centered feasting during the Lord's Supper, stressing that we must examine ourselves and discern the Lord's body to avoid eating and drinking judgment upon ourselves (1 Corinthians 11:17-34). Leading the Lord's Supper should be simple enough that new believers and new leaders can lead it easily.

### **Communion Practicals:**

- Invite anyone who wants to honor and remember Jesus – His table is open and welcoming. Let them know that if they are not ready, that's OK, but that this family is ready to embrace anyone who honors Jesus.
- Use one cup and dip the bread into it.
- Don't be afraid to use whatever liquid or food is available. Don't make communion impossible to do by requiring hard to acquire elements.
- Do Communion often so that young churches can experience the power of Christ. It is easy to do and does not require an eloquent speaker, a good musician, or much Biblical knowledge.
- Take communion often with your own families and among your friends so you will be comfortable offering and receiving communion in small settings.

Use whatever elements you have readily available and celebrate the Lord's Supper together. Allow someone who has never led communion before to lead this time.