

## Understanding the Background

- Communion was a shared \_\_\_\_\_.
- Communion was \_\_\_\_\_ by Jesus.
- Communion is of Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ sacrifice on the cross.
- Communion happened during the \_\_\_\_\_ meal.

## Before taking Communion...

Point #1: We need to take time to \_\_\_\_\_ the past.

1 Corinthians 11:23: "For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread..."

Point #2: We need to take time to \_\_\_\_\_ on Jesus' sacrifice.

1 Corinthians 11:23-25: "The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24) 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." 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."

- Bread is a symbol of Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ being broken.
- The cup is a symbol of Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ being shed.

Point #3: We need to take time for confession and \_\_\_\_\_.

1 Corinthians 11:28: "A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup."

KEY QUESTION: Am I obeying God's Word and is there anything I need to ask forgiveness for?

John 14:21,24: "Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him... 24) He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me."

Point #4: We need to take time to \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ our differences.

1 Corinthians 11:33-34: "So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for each other. 34) If anyone is hungry, he should eat at home, so that when you meet together it may not result in judgment."

Matthew 5:23-24: "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24) leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift."

Point #5: We need to take time to \_\_\_\_\_ on the future.

1 Corinthians 11:26: "For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

Other Proclamations we can make  
because of Jesus' death

- We are new creatures because of Jesus sacrifice.
- We have victory over sin through Christ.
- Death is not the end, but only the beginning.
- Jesus will be coming back to Earth.
- We will be worshiping Jesus forever in Heaven.

### Final Thoughts:

When we share in Communion we are celebrating a relationship with the risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

### Small Group Questions

Open with praise reports/prayer/announcements

1. What things symbolized by Communion have received new emphasis in your thinking as a result of this message? Do you feel more eager to participate in Communion now than before the sermon? Why?
2. In what ways (if any) will you approach Communion differently now? Which of the things symbolized in Communion is most encouraging to your Christian life right now?
3. In what ways does remembering and reflecting on Jesus sacrifice on the cross, help someone to better understand what is happening during Communion? Was your view different before the message? (If so) how?
4. Are there any sins that you haven't asked forgiveness for? Why? Is there any thing that you need to confess to God that you haven't yet done? Is there any sin that you have a hard time conquering? How can the Small Group help you overcome this issue?
5. Do you have any unresolved issues with anyone outside of SMC? Why? Do you have any unresolved issues with a person at Shadow Mountain? What has stopped you from talking about these issues? Do you have any

unresolved issues with anyone in your Small Group? Take time to resolve your differences, and ask for forgiveness during or after the Small Group.

6. Does any of the proclamations mentioned give you hope for facing the future? If so, which ones and why?

## Today's Message:

### What is the Meaning of Communion?

By Associate Pastor Josh Gonzales / 3.15.09

#### Introduction:

1 Corinthians 11:17-33: "In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. 18) In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. 19) No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval. 20) When you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat, 21) for as you eat, each of you goes ahead without waiting for anybody else. One remains hungry, another gets drunk. 22) Don't you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you for this? Certainly not! 23) For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24) 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." 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." 26) For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 27) 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. 28) A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. 29) For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. 30) That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. 31) But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment. 32) When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned

with the world. 33) So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for each other. 34) If anyone is hungry, he should eat at home, so that when you meet together it may not result in judgment. And when I come I will give further directions.”