

# THE LORD'S SUPPER

(PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS, PART III)

**1 Corinthians 11:17–29**

**Acts 2:32**

God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. **Acts 2:32**

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

MEMORY VERSE

How much is really known about the Lord's Supper? Did you know that this supper of remembrance is taken from the ancient Passover's Seder, or "order of service" (Luke 22:17–20)? Did you know that, just as Jesus used many object lessons throughout His life, He also used this portion of the Seder as an object lesson to introduce the new covenant? Did you know that it was the Passover Seder's third cup, the cup of redemption, that Jesus referred to as His blood? Did you know that it was the second of three pieces of unleavened bread (matzo) that Jesus referred to as His broken body? This piece of bread was broken, striped, pierced, wrapped in a cloth, and hidden until just before the drinking of the third cup. Do you see the symbolism?

Read 1 Corinthians 11:17–29. Just as God wanted the people of Israel to remember how He had delivered them from Egypt with the blood of a sacrificial lamb, Jesus wanted His people to know that, by His blood, all were delivered from the slavery of sin into eternal life.

Our remembrance of Christ and His sacrifice is rich. It holds meaning that threads all throughout Scripture. It is sacred and calls for us to approach it with reverence and a spirit of repentance. These are things our children need to learn from us. If we teach them the meaning of remembering Christ in this way, they will never forget. They will approach this time together with other believers as a time of introspection. They will learn to respond to Jesus as His Spirit speaks to them through such meaningful experiences.

## FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

### Connect . . .

First, a family member pours a glass of grape juice and gathers three saltine crackers, wrapping the crackers in a napkin. Then, displaying the juice and the wrapped crackers, the family member explains to the family: **In the ancient celebration of Passover, there were four cups of wine. Each had particular symbolism pertaining to God's deliverance of Israel from slavery in Egypt. On the night of the Last Supper, Jesus took His disciples through the meaning of the Passover Feast. Only this time, He took the second piece of unleavened bread, which had been hidden earlier in the feast, broke it, and declared that it was His body, broken for us. Next, He took the third cup, the cup of redemption, and said that this was the new covenant in His blood.** Finally, the family discusses the symbolism they see in these visuals, which refer to Jesus the Messiah (the wrapped bread, hidden and brought back at the third cup of redemption).

### Explore . . .

First, the family takes turns reading 1 Corinthians 11:17–29. Then, a family member says: **Paul addressed some real problems that were taking place between members of the body. Their treatment of each other overshadowed the meaning of The Lord's Supper.** Finally, another family member asks: **Knowing what you now know, what makes the Lord's Supper so meaningful to you?**

### Transform . . .

Say: **Because The Lord's Supper is a time of spiritual evaluation and deep meaning, we should approach it with a spirit of humility and repentance. How will your attitude toward your church's observance of the Lord's Supper change based on what you've learned?**

*Pray that your family will approach the observance of the Lord's Supper with great care and meaning.*

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