

Small Group Discussion Guide — November 17, 2019

- Series: Sacred Rhythms
 - Sermon: Communion - The Meal God Gave Us
 - Scripture: 1 Corinthians 11: 23b-26 (NASB), Luke 22: 7-20 (NLT)
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FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK:

How did last week's message change your thinking about fasting? If you tried it last week, share about your experience.

CONNECT:

Have you ever had to "fake your way" through something? Did it work? What happened?

ENGAGE:

1. Read Luke 22: 7-20 (NLT)
 - Why do you think Jesus is eager to eat this meal with his disciples? (v. 15)
 - What did the Jewish people traditionally understand the lamb and unleavened bread to represent? (See Exodus 12: 1-17 for context)
 - What is Jesus now saying the wine and bread represent? (v. 19-20)
 - Why might the disciples be disturbed by Jesus' new interpretation of this ancient tradition? What would be some of your thoughts, if you were one of the twelve?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 11: 23b-26.
 - Why is it significant that this meal took place on the night Jesus was betrayed?
 - Why do you think Jesus used a meal as a reminding tool for us, versus simple instructions or commands?
 - What picture does this paint of how God feels about us?

APPLY:

1. By bringing together the ideas of the Israelites' exodus from Egypt and His own impending death, what is Jesus claiming about his own identity? Why does this matter for us in the western world, almost 2,000 years later?
2. Jesus' love seeks to fill empty places in the world and in us. Where do you go to "fill your lack"? What other wells do you draw from to satisfy your deepest needs? How effective are they? How is Jesus different and better?
3. Since Jesus' sacrifice for sin was **once and for all** (Hebrews 10:10), what does that mean for all the times you feel you have to fake your worthiness or goodness?

PRAY:

Father, thank you that even in the darkest days of Jesus' earthly life, He chose to enter deeper into relationship through the passover meal. Thank you that Jesus is the fulfillment of the scriptures and the perfect sacrifice for our sin. Remind us that we are your children and we forever have your love, and therefore can share love with others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

GOING DEEPER

- Why do you think Luke didn't mention a lamb as part of the Passover meal in his account?
- Read the quote below. Given that Christ's atoning work for us is done, and we could never earn it, how does observing sacraments like communion help us participate in God's kingdom and stand against evil?

"God's work in the world is never merely pragmatic. You need prayer, you need the sacraments, you need that patient faithfulness - because we are not wrestling against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers and the world rulers of this present darkness."

N.T. Wright