



The Reformation & The Lord's Supper

Read the following verses aloud.

Luke 22:14-23

Kicking It Off:

Share a time when you experienced a meaningful meal with others. What made it so special?

Weekend Review:

500 years ago, a professor of Theology named Martin Luther posted a list of grievances he had against the Catholic church at that time. This act helped spark what we know today as the Reformation - one effect of which was the restoration of the idea that people can have an individual relationship with God and come to God through one Mediator, Jesus Christ. Also, one of the biggest issues going on during that time was that the Lord's Supper was being used as a tool by priests to control the church.

Discussion:

1. What do you know about the Lord's Supper?
2. Do you have any Catholic friends? Have you ever asked them about what they believe about the Reformation and the Lord's Supper?
3. Read 1st Corinthians 11:23-26. Twice in this passage Jesus urges us to use the elements of the Lord's Supper to "remember Him". What exactly does this mean? Practically speaking, how may this be done?
4. Meals in the ancient world were not just opportunities to conduct business or catch up with old friends. To eat with someone was to express solidarity, friendship and support. In light of this, what are

we declaring by participating in the Lord's Supper? See 1st Corinthians 10:16-17.

5. Paul quotes Jesus as having said, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood." What exactly is a covenant?
6. What was the *old* covenant? (see Exodus 24:8) What does God promise to do in the *new* covenant (see Jeremiah 31:31-34)? Hint: look for the "*I will*" promises in the Jeremiah 31 passage.
7. Share about a time you tried to correct someone else? What happened?
8. When have you ever been stopped from doing something? What or who made you stop? How did you respond?
9. What is something for which you have gone to God? How does Jesus allow you to go to God today? (see Hebrews 4:14-16 and 1st Timothy 2:5)
10. Read 1st Peter 2:5. In the Old Testament, a priest had to make sacrifices to God for people. But, Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice for our sins. What might "spiritual sacrifices" be? What more could we possibly give up to God? Why should we give up those things?

Wrap It Up:

The Reformation didn't create a new idea, but rather sought to bring the Church back to its original idea of having a direct relationship with God through Jesus.

Reminders / Tips:

- Invite a person out to a meal this week who you want to know better. Ask them about their relationship with God. What is important to that person?