

PARENTS' GUIDE TO TEACHING COMMUNION

Parents,

As you prepare to take communion this Sunday you will also have a great opportunity to teach your kids what communion means and why we do it. Below are 5 things you need to know when explaining communion to your kids.

Here are 5 things you need to know about how to explain communion to children:

1. Communion is reserved for followers of Christ. Take them to passages like 1 Cor. 11:23-26, where Jesus is addressing His followers about how communion is something that they would do together. Explain that communion is to be done by every Christian, and that Christians are supposed to do it together as the church.
2. The purpose of communion. Look at the Scriptures together, pointing out that Jesus wants Christians to remember Him through communion, and that they should continue to do this until Christ returns again. Good passages to look at would be Matt. 26:26-28; Luke 22:19-20; and 1 Cor. 11:24-26.
3. The symbolism of body and blood. Because children usually don't begin to develop abstract thinking capabilities further until they have reached the upper elementary or junior high years, they won't be able to understand clearly how the bread and drink are not actually the physical flesh and blood of Christ. It will be somewhat confusing. However, you can explain that they are symbols. This might lead to more questions, at which point it is perfectly acceptable for you to take the opportunity to explain that we really don't know anything more than that, because Jesus did not tell us any more about those elements. It's ok to say that it's partially a mystery to us all, because it is!
4. Why we keep doing communion. Share that Christ told us to keep remembering Him through communion until He returned again. So until Christ returns one day, we should keep participating in communion together as a church.
5. Before doing communion. 1 Cor. 11:27-29 says that we must examine ourselves before participating in communion. A simple way to explain this is that if they know they have done something wrong that they need to apologize for, then they need to do that before taking communion. As your children get older, you can have deeper discussions about what it means to be right before God.

Teaching your kids about communion is also an opportunity to share the Gospel with them. When it talks about the body and the blood share with them why Jesus had to die and what that accomplished. Jesus died for our sins and He rose again on the 3rd day giving us the opportunity to spend forever in heaven with him. Below are some scripture references to use when sharing the Gospel with you kids.

- Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
- Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- Romans 10:9-13 - 9 If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”