



## Family Worship Guide – 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11:17-34

### MEMORIZE

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11:26

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

### READ

Read 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11:17-34

**Verses 17-22:** Paul is not pleased with what he is hearing about the way that the Corinthians are partaking in the Lord's Supper. He is rebuking them because they are coming together with divisions, the people are not eating together, some of them get almost nothing while others are said to have so much they are drunk. These things lead Paul to ask if the Corinthians "despise the church of God!" That is a serious claim that he is making.

**Verses 23-26:** Paul here reminds the Corinthians of how Jesus first performed the Lord's Supper and how his directions for performing the Lord's Supper were received directly from the Lord. He takes time to go through these verses to remind the Corinthians of the point of the Lord's Supper, to proclaim His death until He returns.

**Verses 27-34:** Paul urges the Corinthians not to partake in the Lord's Supper in an unworthy way. He then gives two directives indicating what a worthy way would be. First, we need to examine ourselves before participating. But not just examine ourselves; we need to also recognize Jesus. So when we realize we have fallen short, when the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin, in that moment we look to Jesus, his body and blood, and we once again realize our utter need of Him for salvation and forgiveness. Then we give that sin to Christ and He not only forgives us, He gives us the power to repent. Secondly, Paul tells us to wait for each other. The Lord's Supper is to be done in the community of believers and we need to demonstrate constraint as we participate.

**Discussion:** (Use these questions as guidelines for discussion with your family. Share your experiences as they relate to the question and then ask the question to the rest of the family.)

1. Talk about communion and the importance of it in your walk with Jesus.
2. At the Last Supper, Jesus broke bread and gave wine to all of his disciples, even Judas, the one who would betray Him only hours later. What implications does this have for us?
3. Jesus tells us to partake in the Lord's Supper as a way of remembering Him. In Deuteronomy, God tells the people to make sure they remember what He has done for them and to teach their children. Remembering is important because when we stop remembering we forget and then we begin to give ourselves credit instead of looking to Jesus. Other than the Lord's Supper, what can you and your family do to remember Jesus daily? Commit to doing these regularly!

**Bottom Line:** The Lord's Supper is our way of showing continued dependence on Jesus Christ. When we partake in the Lord's Supper we must examine ourselves and recognize that only through Jesus are we renewed and given life.

### SING

"Jesus Paid it All" (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3o3DiMVdOI&feature=related>)

As you sing this song with your family, let the lyrics soak in. The Lord's Supper is to remember His death. And with that, we need to remember and reflect on what His death & resurrection accomplish for us!



## **SUGGESTIONS**

These suggestions were created for specific age ranges as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's word and worship Him together.

### **This is for the whole family to do this week.**

Conrad Grebel, a founding father of the Anabaptist movement observed the Lord's Supper drastically different than the Catholics or Protestants of the day. In a letter that he wrote, Grebel said that holiness was not attached to special words, objects, places, persons or days. He did not view any of this as sacred. As such, he renounced the common practices that the Catholic Church and many Protestant churches used for observing the Lord's Supper. Grebel did not believe that communion had to be officiated by only the priest (sacred person); or that a special bread had to be used (sacred object); or that special words needed to be used to bless the bread and wine (sacred words); or that it had to be done at church (sacred place); and finally, they did not believe it had to be done only on the Sabbath (sacred day).

Instead, Grebel thought believers could regularly celebrate the Lord's Supper in their homes with other believers as long as they still followed Paul's directives in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians on unity, reconciliation and forgiveness. The activity for our families this week comes from this philosophy.

For this week, take time to have family meals. When you come together as a family, take time to have reconciliation if there is an unresolved argument between family members. Give time to seek and give forgiveness to each other. Also, take time to reflect on your day/week and then give over any sins to Jesus. (If you feel compelled, you can even confess these to your family and allow them to be agents of Christ's grace to you.) Then join together in giving God thanks and praise through prayer. In this way, your family will be in unity as you eat and every member of the family will have been reminded of our dependence on Jesus Christ.

## **PRAY**

Pray a prayer of thanksgiving that Jesus Christ gave His body and His blood that we could receive life!