



**A GUIDE FOR FAMILIES**

## **What is the Lord's Supper?**

Along with Baptism, the Lord's Supper is one of two ordinances of the Baptist church. It is a time to remember Jesus Christ's sacrifice for our sins and celebrate the new life His death on the cross provides us. Jesus instituted this time of remembrance with His disciples (*Luke 22:14-20*), giving us an example to follow.

## **Why do we participate in the Lord's Supper?**

Participation in the Lord's Supper compels Christians to remember what Christ has done, to recall our acceptance of God's free gift of salvation, and to look forward to our blessed hope—the return of Christ. The bread is a symbolic reminder that Jesus' body was sacrificed for us, while the drink serves as a symbolic reminder of Jesus' shed blood that was poured out to establish the New Covenant. The Lord's Supper is a time to remember and celebrate!

## **Who participates in the Lord's Supper?**

Those who come to the Lord's Table to partake in the Lord's Supper affirm that they believe in Jesus' death as a sacrifice for their sins. Only those who have genuinely repented of their sins and who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord should partake in the Lord's Supper.

## **How do we do the Lord's Supper?**

Observing the Lord's Supper is a serious occasion and should be treated with reverence (*1 Cor. 11:17-22*). Therefore, Scripture offers us guidelines in *1 Corinthians 11:23-29* for the observance of the Lord's Supper.

1. Prior to participating in the Lord's Supper, a Christian must *examine* his/her life:
  - a. Affirm that you have a true relationship with Christ, built on a saving faith in Him.
  - b. Confess any sin to God.
  - c. Rest in God's forgiveness, and remember the continual need for His grace.
2. *Prepare* the bread and juice before the online service this Sunday.
3. Use the time as an opportunity for *evangelism* and/or *discipleship*:
  - a. Explain that observing the Lord's Supper is reserved for Christians, and that partaking of the elements does not bring salvation but affirmation to those who have submitted to the Lordship of Jesus.
  - b. Listen as Pastor Deane connects the good news of Jesus as our perfect lamb with the story of the Passover in *Exodus 12*. Answer any questions children or other family members may have.
  - c. Pray with and for your family, asking God to bring about salvation and/or Christian growth.
4. *Eat and drink the elements* of the Lord's Supper when Pastor Deane guides us to do so during the online service.
5. After the service, *give thanks to God* for what He has done for you through His Son, Jesus Christ. Celebrate the finished work of Jesus Christ.