

January 25, 2012

Dear parents,

Our small groups continued their four-week series on the church by discussing communion this week, using Luke 22:7-20 as our primary passage.

These verses tell us about the events at the Last Supper—the final gathering of Jesus and his disciples before his crucifixion. Jesus takes elements from the Passover meal—specifically, the bread and the wine—and powerfully transforms their meanings. They become symbols of the sacrifice he is about to make on the cross.

Hundreds of years before Jesus walked the earth, God was already setting the stage for communion. The plagues sent on the Egyptians, culminating in the Passover feast, establishes the idea of the sacrificial lamb. God shows us, in the New Testament, how Jesus was the lamb slain for our sins. Understanding what Jesus and his disciples were celebrating with the Passover feast helps us better understand the meaning and significance of communion.

I'd encourage you to find time this week to talk with your teenager about our lesson. Here are some questions you might want to ask:

- When have you needed God's help this past week? How did God meet your need?
- The cross is a familiar image—people wear necklaces with a cross, people have tattoos of the cross, and you may even see the cross on bumper stickers. What's the first thing that comes to your mind when you see a cross, and why?
- What are some words you'd use to describe how you feel or you think about when you talk about communion—or when you've participated in communion before?

I pray that you and your family have a blessed week!