

Communion

- **LEADER:** Explain Intentions of wanting God's word to radically change their lives
- Inform that we're taking communion.
- **Someone read: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26**
 - *"For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took break, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink, in remembrance of me.' For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."*
- **LEADER:**
 - **Thought Question:** What do you usually think and feel before you take communion? What's your attitude?
 - **DON'T JUST GIVE THE RIGHT ANSWER!!!**
 - This is a profession of faith
 - When we take communion, it is a physical expression of what we believe to be true about Jesus.
- **LEADER:** Not just a thing we do, but a radical life expression.
- **Someone read: 1 Corinthians 11:27-29**
 - *"Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself."*
- **LEADER:** Communion is an act of worship. That being the case, God takes it very seriously and so should we. We want to take what God says to do, and apply it with an honest heart.
 - *"A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup."*
- The passage that got us thinking about all of this in the first place:
 - **Someone: Matthew 5:23-24**
 - *So if you are standing before the altar in the Temple, offering a sacrifice to God, and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, leave your sacrifice there beside the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.*
- This is a reinforcement of the last half of the passage in 1 Corinthians.
 - So, God says that there is an immense value in our relationship with him and that he desires for us to be right with him before we come to worship.

- He also says that he wants us to be at peace with each other before we come to worship Him. Community is so important to God; we need to be as one body, connected and drawn to each other by God and for God.
- **LEADER:** Break down verse.
 - Re-enforce responsibility that we have to God and to each other.
 - Give examples: **OUR EXAMPLE!**
 - Small or big.
 - Might know or might not.
 - Actual examples:
 - God wanted you to encourage someone in HG, but you didn't. They might not be aware.
 - Might have gotten in a fight, but didn't apologize and it has caused tension in your relationship with them.
- Encourage them to take responsibility for that tonight before they take communion.
 - Think of one person.
 - Could be someone outside of this room, but think of someone in the room tonight.
 - Pray: Ask God who it might be in HG.
 - **DO NOT** take communion unless you are reconciled to someone tonight if God has laid someone on your heart.
 - This is a radical way for us to apply God's word to our life to let it move in a more powerful way.

(NOTE: Not everyone in the group is going to need to reconcile with another person. It might be important to point that out so that people feel comfortable taking communion whenever they are ready.)

Guitar playing in background as we pray.

- **LEADER:** Introduce Communion and take it.
- Sing a worship song.