

COMMUNION

IPHC CHILDREN'S CURRICULUM

COMMUNION

BIBLE PASSAGE

Luke 22:14, 19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:25 (ICB).

BIG IDEA

Remember Jesus' sacrifice.

FOCUS VERSE

"Do this in remembrance of me." Luke 22:19b (NIV)

LESSON MATERIALS

| Pita Bread | Grape Juice | Cup | Last Supper Puzzle |
| Communion Memory Match Cards (1 per pair) | Scissors |

GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as children arrive:

- What is your favorite thing to do with your family?
- Can you play an instrument? If so, which one?

WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Today's lesson is unique. On this fifth Sunday, instead of continuing with our monthly theme, we have seized the opportunity to teach about the Lord's Supper. In addition to water baptism, we hold Communion as one of our two most sacred and significant practices (or ordinances). While we encourage you to worship with the kids as usual, choose songs and lyrics that will prepare the children for this lesson on remembering Christ's sacrifice. If you're looking for a new song, we'd recommend "Story of the Cross" by Rend Co Kids. It's available on YouTube and Spotify.



USE THIS TIME TO DISCUSS THAT WORSHIP IS MORE THAN SINGING. WE ARE CALLED TO WORSHIP IN EVERYTHING WE DO! WE DO IT ALL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD (1 CORINTHIANS 10:31).

PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Assemble the children for prayer.

SAMPLE PRAYER: "Jesus, we praise You for being a good God who loves us. We thank You for teaching us more about yourself every week. Please help us love You a little more today. In Jesus' name, Amen."

REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

Review the puzzle pieces from this month. There will be NO puzzle piece this week!



EACH TIME THERE IS A FIFTH SUNDAY IN A MONTH WE WILL
FOCUS ON A SPECIAL TOPIC OR SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE.

BACKGROUND: Say, “Have you ever noticed that we focus on a different story from the Bible each week? Well, today we are going to do something a little different. We are going to use our time together to talk about a practice Christians do together that is very special and very holy. Who knows what the word ‘holy’ means? If something is ‘holy,’ it has been set apart by God or for God. Another word for holy is ‘sacred.’”

“This very special and very holy thing we’re going to talk about is ‘Communion.’ Now you might have heard Communion called ‘the Eucharist,’ or ‘the Lord’s Supper,’ because it’s something all Christians do even though they call it by different names. Perhaps one of the most important things to know about Communion is that Jesus commanded believers to do it. God’s people have been taking the Lord’s Supper together since Jesus first did it with His twelve disciples!”

TRANSITION: Say, “Let’s discover what Communion is together!”

ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

Say, “Like I just said, we are going to be learning about Communion today. To get us ready to hear our Bible story, let’s play a memory game together.”

GAME GOAL: Go around the circle remembering everyone’s descriptor and name.

HOW TO PLAY:

- First, have everyone sit in a circle.
- Starting with the teacher, share a word that begins with the first letter of your name, then say your name after it.
 - Example: Terrific Terry, Jumping Julian, Hotdog Harry, Frog Freddy, Baseball Bob, etc.
- After the teacher leader shares, the child to their right repeats the leader’s descriptor and name and then shares their own.
- Repeat this process until the last person in the circle has said everyone’s descriptor and name.

TRANSITION: Say, “Great job remembering everyone’s fun names. Let’s see what God wants to teach us and have us remember today!”

LEARN — 15 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Bread | Juice | Cup |

Say, “You might not know very much about Communion, but that’s OK! We are going to learn ALL about it! Let’s read from God’s Word.” Read Luke 22:14, 19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:25 (ICB).

14 When the time came, Jesus and the apostles were sitting at the table. **19** Then Jesus took some bread. He thanked God for it, broke it, and gave it to the apostles. Then Jesus said, “This bread is my body[b] that I am giving for you. Do this to remember me.” **20** In the same way, after supper, Jesus took the cup and said, “This cup shows the new agreement that God makes with his people... **25** This new agreement begins with the blood of my death. When you drink this, do it to remember me.”

Say, “Hmmm... Interesting story. I don’t remember hearing the word ‘Communion,’ though, do you? You know what word I did hear... ‘REMEMBER!’ That’s just like our memory game we played. Our goal was to remember!”

MODEL: Reread the passage and this time model how Jesus broke the bread in half and took the cup.



DO NOT SERVE THE CHILDREN COMMUNION—JUST MODEL IT. COMMUNION IS A PRACTICE TO BE TAKEN WITH PARENTAL AND/OR CHURCH LEADERSHIP’S CONSENT.

TRANSITION: Say, “Let’s get ready to put our listening ears on!”

DISCUSS — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Last Supper Puzzle |

Discuss the story: Say, “Let’s talk about Communion and as we do, we are going to put a puzzle together.”



BEFORE CLASS, PRINT AND CUT OUT THE LAST SUPPER PUZZLE. AS YOU MOVE THROUGH EACH QUESTION, HAVE THE CHILDREN TAKE TURNS PICKING A PIECE OF THE PUZZLE AND THEN PLACING IT IN IT’S PROPER PLACE.

WHAT IS COMMUNION?

“During Communion, Christians eat and drink bread and juice, but it’s not just what we eat and drink that’s most important. In the Bible today, we read that Jesus gathered His disciples together for a Passover meal before He died. (Passover was a time when the Jews remembered that God rescued them from being slaves in Egypt.) As they sat together, Jesus gave them bread to represent His body that would be broken (killed) on the cross, and He used the juice to symbolize His blood that would be spilled for the forgiveness of sins. The disciples didn’t realize that Jesus was about to die for them and rescue them in an even greater way than He did in Egypt. However, He used this meal to help them understand. We remember Jesus’ scarifice in Communion.”

WHY DO WE TAKE COMMUNION?

“Communion is all about remembering! We take Communion to remind ourselves that Jesus died so our sins could be forgiven, and we could be adopted into His family. Believers also take Communion to celebrate that He has saved us. Because the bread and juice are things we can see and taste, they remind us that Jesus allowed his body to break and his blood to pour out, so our hearts could be healed. We

remember Jesus' sacrifice in Holy Communion."

WHO SHOULD TAKE COMMUNION?

"Jesus taught that anyone who has put their trust in Him should take Communion. You shouldn't take Communion if you haven't asked Jesus to come into your heart. If you want to take Communion, you should talk to your parents and your pastor. They will help you know if it's time for you to take Communion."

WHEN IS COMMUNION TAKEN?

"The Bible doesn't tell us exactly how often we should take Communion, but it does say we should take it regularly/often. Jesus knew we would need special reminders of His incredible sacrifice on the Cross."

WHERE IS COMMUNION TAKEN?

"Communion doesn't have to be taken in just one place, but most often, Communion is served at church with our church family. "

- Ask, "Does anyone have questions about Communion before we move on?"



YOU DO NOT HAVE TO KNOW ALL THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS CHILDREN ASK. KIDS WILL BENEFIT FROM SOMETIMES BEING TOLD, "I DON'T KNOW, BUT I WILL FIND OUT." JUST REMEMBER TO COME BACK WITH AN ANSWER NEXT WEEK!

TRANSITION: Say, "Let's take a close look at our puzzle now that it's all finished. What do you notice about this picture? Great job listening today! Raise your hand if you've learned at least ONE new thing about Communion. Great! Now, let's do an activity together."

RESPOND — 15 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Communion Memory Match Cards (1 per pair) | Scissors |

Say, "We are going to play Communion Memory Match. Let's see who has the best memory!"

GAME GOAL: Whoever collects the most matching pairs wins.



PRINT THE MEMORY MATCH CARDS ON CARDSTOCK OR LAMINATE THEM FOR A LONG-LASTING ACTIVITY.

- Prepare the matching game ahead of time.
- Pair up the children to play the Communion Memory Match game, and then pass out a copy of the game to each pair.
- Instruct the children to lay out cards in a grid-like pattern with the backs up.
- Each partner will take turns flipping over two memory cards and seeing the image to find a match.
- If a match is not found, the image cards will be flipped back over for the next person's turn.
- Repeat this process until all of the cards have been matched.
- Count up who has the most matching pairs.

TRANSITION: Say, "Awesome job playing our game! Let's look at a memory verse that will help remind us about our teaching on Communion from today."

MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

For today only, explain that you will be practicing a brand-new memory verse about **remembering Jesus' sacrifice** through Communion.

"Do this (point straight ahead) **in remembrance** (point to your head) **of me** (point toward heaven)." **Luke 22:19 (NIV)** (hold out your hands like a book)

CHALLENGE: Use the opportunity to teach children the sign language for "Jesus." Sign Language: Touch the tip of the middle finger of your dominant hand into the center of the palm of your non-dominant hand. Then touch the tip of the middle finger of your non-dominant hand into the palm of your dominant hand.

- Ask, "Why do you think we use these hand motions to represent Jesus?" Explain that Jesus' hands were nailed to the Cross, and even doing these movements with our hands reminds us of that incredible sacrifice."

TRANSITION: Say, "Great job practicing your memory verse! Let's reflect on what we've learned together."

REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, "We learned a whole lot today! What is one thing you've learned about Communion that you didn't already know? Great job, everyone! Let's pray and thank Jesus for His sacrifice.

SAMPLE PRAYER: *"Jesus, we praise You for your sacrifice. Thank you for giving us Communion so we can remember You and what you've done for us! Help us this week to remember You and Your sacrifice in all kinds of ways, even when we aren't taking Communion. In Jesus' name, Amen."*

RELEASE —

Children can continue to practice their verse memorization or replay the matching game if there's additional time.



LET ANY CHILD TAKE HOME THE COPIES OF THE COMMUNION MEMORY MATCH CARDS. IT WILL SERVE AS A GAME AND REMINDER OF HOLY COMMUNION.

			
			
			
			
			
			
			

