

November 3-9, 2018
Community Group Questions
Alive!

Warm-up: What game show would you be really good at?

Have people share prayer requests (try to keep it brief) and pray for one another.

Overview:

This week we are taking a special focus on communion. We live in a time that is overcome with divisions of all kinds. These divisions are both in the family of believers and in the world. Our separation from God leads us to separate from others. Maybe you don't see the connection here but think about for a moment; we chase after what we want attempting to fill a relational need in our soul that only God can fill, and in the process, we damage our human relationships. I have heard it said once that when we attempt to fill a legitimate need in an illegitimate way we sin. The root of this division is our sinful and rebellious hearts.

When we celebrate communion, we celebrate our liberation from our own sinful rebellion, this is found only in Jesus. Maybe you have been a believer for a while and this seems basic to you, I feel the same way sometimes. I wonder this though, what did the Apostle Paul tell us in Acts 20:7 and in 1 Corinthians 11:17-34? We are instructed to come to the communion table of remembrance of what Jesus has done on a regular basis so that we never lose sight of His great sacrifice and the power of His resurrection in our life. We have short memories, we are easily led astray, we allow divisions to come between us, and we lose focus on the transformational power of the Gospel. 2 Peter 1:12-13 NIV "So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. 13 I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body." This is the reason we are called to regularly celebrate the Lord's Supper.

1. Read John 6:33-40. How often do you think of the work of Christ in your life? Does it still feel like a recent reality or fading memory?
2. The Gospel shapes our heart and mind. It is like Jesus has given us a new filter to process life through. How does or should this "filter" shape how you look at and respond to the political, social, and cultural issues in the world? (no rants or soap boxes please!)

3. Looking at the passage, there is a conversation about bread. The people are asking Jesus for a sign or what He will do for them. He reminds them of the manna that God provided Israel in the desert and then goes on to tell of how God is providing the bread of life that all who come to him and believe will never hunger or thirst again. Just like the people in this passage we often get caught up looking at the physical provision of God, even to the point of basing God's faithfulness on what we can see. When we look deeper we see that there is a theme from Jesus at work here, he tells us to pray, "gives us today our daily bread," Matthew 6, meaning all types of provision. Israel only had enough for each day in the desert, yet God sustained them for forty years.
 - a. Do you ever get caught up basing God's faithfulness on an unmet need?

 - b. As we consider the communion we have with God and His promise of the bread of life, is there an area of your life you need to be filled with the bread of life and the living water?

John 6:35 NIV "Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Hebrews 11:1-3 NIV "1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for. 3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible."