

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of September 10, 2017

This Week's Focus: Why do we practice believer's baptism and partake of communion?

This Week's Text: Matthew 26:26–28; Matthew 28:18–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–30; Acts 2:37–38, 41

"Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.' And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.'" **Matthew 26:26-28**

"Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?' And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" **Acts 2:37-38**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What about this week's sermon has God impressed on you?
- What important event in Israel's history did the Passover meal commemorate? Reference Exodus 11 and 12. In what form did God's judgment fall on the house of Pharaoh and Egypt? Under what did the Israelites take cover from God's judgement?
- Why was it necessary under the old covenant to sacrifice lambs and goats? To whom were these bloody sacrifices ultimately pointing? What do the bread and cup of the Lord's Supper/Communion symbolize? Reference Matthew 26:26-28.
- Compare and contrast the four different views of the Lord's Supper: Transubstantiation, Consubstantiation, Memorial, and John Calvin's view.
- Discuss Paul's warning to the church of Corinth about the manner of approaching the Lord's Supper/Communion. Reference 1 Corinthians 11:27-30. Discuss how we should approach the Lord's Supper/Communion with reverence, repentance, and celebration. Have you experienced the joy of celebrating the gospel through partaking of the Lord's Supper/Communion with other believers?

- Why do we call the Lord's Supper/Communion and Baptism ordinances? Who instituted (ordained) these two ordinances? Reference 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 and Matthew 28:18-20.
- What always precedes baptism and is the basis and grounds for baptism? Reference Acts 2:37-38, 41. What is the precedent for baptizing by full immersion? Reference Matthew 3:16, John 3:23, Acts 8:38-39.
- Discuss how baptism illustrates the gospel in the following four ways:
 - The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus (Romans 6:3-4)
 - The cleansing nature of Jesus' atoning work (1 John 1:9)
 - The testimony of the inward reality of a changed heart (1 Peter 3:21)
 - The fact that we belong to God and to his Church (1 Corinthians 12:12-13)
- Have you repented of your sins, placed your faith in Jesus, and been baptized?