

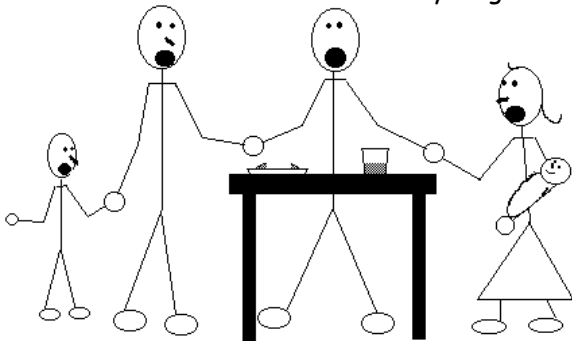
Jesus died, rose back to life, and returned to heaven. When his followers would come together, they would often "break bread" together. That is, they would celebrate the Lord's Table which is also called "communion" and the "Eucharist."

For almost 2000 years, the Lord's Table has been at the center of Christian worship, both in big buildings and in humble home meetings. Your home group can break bread together, too.

Here is one simple way to do so ...

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While seated or standing, anyone in the group can say a short prayer or lead out with a song of praise to Jesus. Perhaps the group will hold hands with each other while they sing.



Invite everyone to return to their seats.

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Read aloud some verses from the Bible about Jesus' death. Or ask the people to recite some verses about Jesus' death. You may choose to read one of these passages:

Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12
 Matthew 26:26-30
 Matthew 20:17-28
 Mark 14:23-26
 Luke 22:14-20
 Luke 24:44-53
 John 6:44-58
 Acts 2:22-36

Acts 4:8-12
 Romans 5:6-11
 1 Cor. 1:18-2:5
 1 Cor. 14:23-31
 Ephesians 2:13-18
 Hebrews 9:11-15
 1 Pet. 3:13 - 4:1
 1 John 4:7-17

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Do ...

- Celebrate the Lord's Table often.
- Try various ways of serving the bread and cup. Try making communion part of a pot luck supper.
- Let non-followers watch while you celebrate; they will not be offended.

Don't ...

- Preach. The Lord's Table is a proclamation.
- Hurry it. The Lord's Table is a form of worship whereby people meet with God.
- Explain it away. Communion is more than a symbol; it is spiritual and it is real.

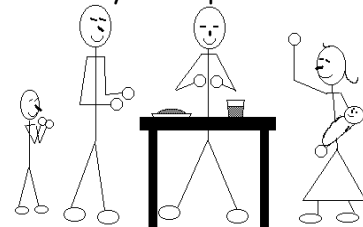
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When we break bread together, with faith in Jesus, several things happen:

- We obey a command of Jesus. Matthew 26:26-27.
- We experience new joy. Acts 2:46.
- We come together. Acts 20:7.
- We participate in the blood and body of Jesus. 1 Corinthians 10:15-17.
- We remember Jesus, his body given for us, his blood, and the new covenant. 1 Cor. 11:23-25.
- We proclaim the Lord's death. 1 Cor. 11:26.
- We examine ourselves. 1 Cor. 11:28.

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Ask the people to thank the Lord, in their own words, for his death and for how he has forgiven them. Tell them that they can also confess to him any sins. If some people begin weeping, do not try to stop them.



After a moment, let people recite some verses that tell about forgiveness. Or read some like Luke 24:45-47 or 1 John 1:5 - 2:2.

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TEST (Choose the better answer to each item.)

1. **Communion can be celebrated ...**
 - only in a full congregational meeting.
 - any time and place your church approves.
2. **The bread and cup become communion when...**
 - an official ceremony is performed correctly.
 - they are received with faith in Jesus.
3. **Communion can be served ...**
 - only by an ordained clergy person.
 - by ordinary believers one to another.
4. **In a communion service, the cup contains ...**
 - real wine like they used in the first century.
 - any juice that reminds people of Jesus' blood.

The second answer for each question is the better one.



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To celebrate the Lord's table, you only need some bread and some grape juice.

You can use any kind of bread and any kind of juice. (If anybody is an alcoholic or believes that alcohol is bad, then do not use real wine.) If you have a dish, put the bread on it. It is best to put the juice in a cup or glass with a wide brim.



Set the bread and cup on a small table with room for people to stand around it.

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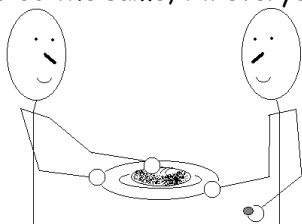
Take up the cup, dip your piece of bread in the juice. Hold your bread and pass the cup to someone while saying, "The blood of Jesus." Each one should do the same till everyone has dipped their bread in the juice.



Read aloud or recite to the group 1 Corinthians 11:25 or a similar verse. Then all of you should eat your bread together.

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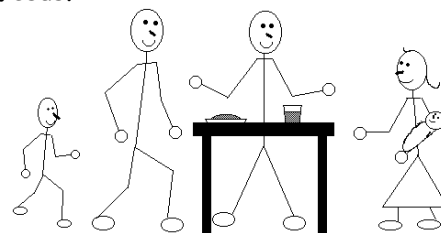
Read aloud or recite to the group 1 Corinthians 11:26 or a similar passage. Take up the bread dish and tear off a small piece of bread. Hold your piece and pass the bread dish to someone while saying, "The body of Jesus." Each person should do the same, till everyone is served.



Each one should hold their piece of bread and not eat it yet ...

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Invite the people to come stand around the table with you. If some non-followers are there, then first tell them that you are glad they came, and that the bread and cup are only for those who have been baptized and want to obey Jesus.



Explain to the people what they and you are about to do ...

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