

## COMMUNION

- Luke 22:14-16.** Jesus knew that it was coming close to the time when he would suffer, die, and return to heaven. He would be leaving his disciples so he gathered them together for their last meal. This was a very special meal called the Passover. The Jewish people celebrated the Passover every year to remember the time when God took them out of Egypt. This happened over 1,000 years before Jesus was born.  
In **Luke 22:19** we read that Jesus took the bread, gave thanks to God then broke it. Jesus said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in memory of me. " The broken bread is a symbol of the body of Jesus who was beaten, whipped, and nailed to the cross to take away our sins.
- John 19:1** Jesus was whipped, beaten, and nailed to a cross. Many years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah said: "because of our sins he was wounded, beaten because of the evil we did. We are healed by the punishment he suffered, made whole by the blows he received" **Isaiah 53:5**. When we participate in a communion service, we are remembering that Jesus suffered and died to take away our sins.
- In many countries of the world eating together is a sign of friendship. People eat with their friends but not with their enemies. While we were sinners we were God's enemies. Jesus loved us, and died for us so that we could become friends of God. When we believe in Jesus, we stop rebelling against God. Now we are friends of God. When we take communion we come close to God and enjoy his friendship (**Romans 5: 10-11**). It also shows that all Christians are children of God. We are brothers and sisters who eat together as members of the family of God.
- Luke 22: 20-** Jesus took the cup of wine and said, "This cup is God's new covenant [promise] sealed with my blood, which is poured out for you." In Old Testament times the Jewish people killed a lamb as a sacrifice and poured out its blood on the altar. They did this so that God would forgive their sins and so restore their relationship with him. Now we no longer kill animals to become right with God. **John 1:29** tells us Jesus was the Lamb of God. Jesus did not sin and he died in our place. His body was a sacrifice for our sins and his blood was poured out as an offering so we could be forgiven and become friends with God (**Hebrews 9:14**).
- John 19:34,37.** After Jesus died and while he was still hanging on the cross, a soldier pierced the side of Jesus with a spear. At once, blood and water poured out.
- I Corinthians 11 :24-25** When we eat the bread and drink the wine we are remembering the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross. We thank God for his great sacrifice in allowing Jesus to die in our place. We thank him for his great love. We thank Jesus for all he did to give us salvation. Taking communion brings us very close to God. It strengthens our faith and makes us more determined by the power of the Holy Spirit, to live for Jesus and do what pleases him.
- Who can participate in communion services? Communion is a very special service that should be made available for all believers regularly. Communion is for those who have sincerely repented of their sins, asked Jesus for forgiveness and believe that he has taken away their sins (**John 6:35**). Jesus wants us to come to him, he will never turn us away. Taking communion does not take away our sins, but helps us to remember what Jesus did for us, and brings us close to God.
- I Corinthians 11:26** When we take communion we are thinking of Jesus and we should continue to use this way of remembering Jesus' death until he comes back again for those who have been redeemed by his blood. In heaven we won't need to take communion because we shall see Jesus face to face. But for now, taking part in communion brings us close to God. We give him thanks for his great love, forgiveness, salvation and a new life to live for him.

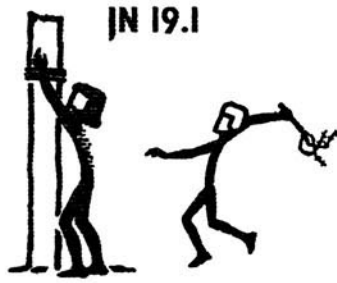
# COMMUNION

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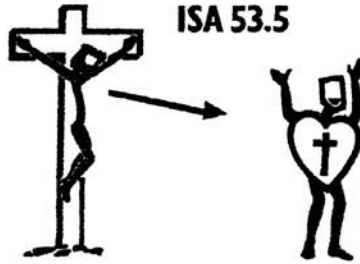


LK 22.14-16, 19

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JN 19.1



ISA 53.5

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ROM 5.10-11



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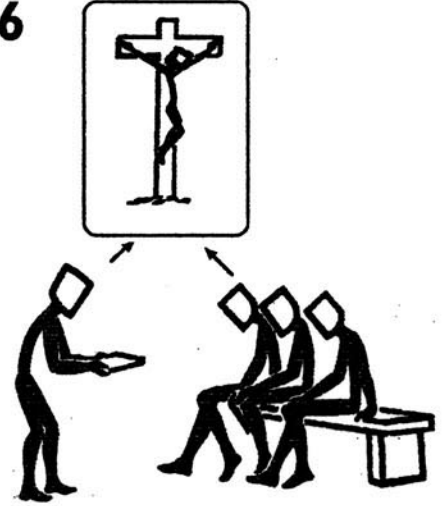
LK 22.20, JN 1.29 HEB 9.14

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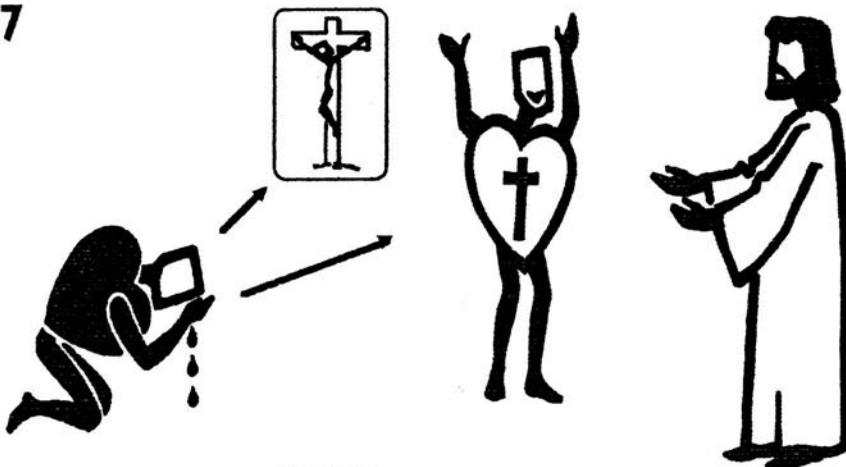
JN 19.34,37

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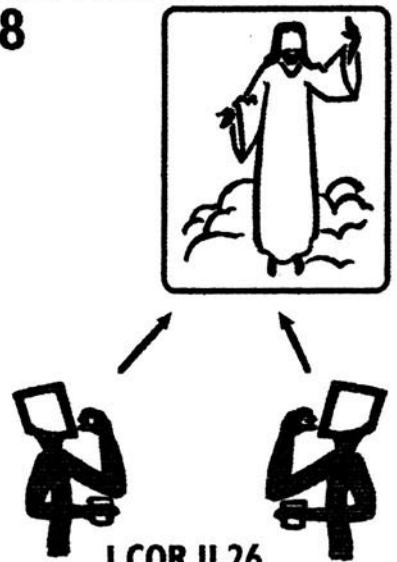
I COR II.24-25

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JN 6.35

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I COR II.26