

**PRAYER**

- Pray that God will effectively use you to tell other people about how we can freely go to and relate with Him.



**Honor God. Make Disciples.**

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## Week 1

NOTES

**CONNECT**

- Tell us about a time when you were young and a person in authority (parent, teacher, etc.) got angry because of a mischievous thing you did. How did you respond?
- Who do you consider as your best friend? Why?
- What gathering do you excitedly look forward to? Why?

## WORD

### WHAT

What does the Bible say?

<sup>27</sup>Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. <sup>28</sup>This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup>I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom."

Matthew 26:27-29

God is a generous and loving Creator Who provided a sufficient sacrifice for our greatest need which is salvation from sin. The Father did this by sending His Son, Jesus. Communion or The Lord's Table is one way we remember God's precious sacrifice. We should not take it as a mere ceremony in our church services. It actually reminds us of several important things.

- **We are forgiven.**

*"This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."*

Matthew 26:28

The Law requires that "without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness" (Hebrews 9:22). This was practiced in the past through animal sacrifices. But those animal sacrifices were not enough (Hebrews 10:3,4). Only the sacrifice of Jesus paid the penalty of our sins in full (1 Peter 3:18). How did accepting Jesus' gift of forgiveness change your life?

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- **We have a covenant with God.**

*"This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."*

Matthew 26:28

Jesus' sacrifice does not just save us from sin but also brings us into a sacred and special relationship with God, which is called a covenant (Hebrews 9:13-18). A common example of a covenant is marriage where the husband is committed to protect and provide for his wife. Likewise, God protects and provides for His people. Some of God's provision are the free access to fellowship with Him (1 John 1:3,6), and the Spirit of sonship (Romans 8:15). What benefits have you been enjoying from your relationship with God?

- **We will have a great celebration when Christ returns.**

*"I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom."*

Matthew 26:29

Communion reminds us of the great banquet we will have when Jesus comes back. Although Jesus Himself does not encourage us to be consumed with figuring out the day of His return (Acts 1:6,7), we can look forward to this great celebration with Him. What promises did Jesus give us in His Word regarding His coming (Revelations 21:4, John 14:1-4)? How do these help you live a godly life?

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### SO WHAT

What is the relevance of the Word to my life?

- How do we receive forgiveness from the Lord according to 1 John 1:9?
- The parties involved in a covenant must keep its terms. Since God is faithful to us, what can we do to faithfully keep the terms on our end as written in the Bible?
- Instead of being consumed with when God's kingdom will be restored, what did the Lord want His disciples to become (Acts 1:6-8)? How does this particular conversation apply to us?

### NOW WHAT

How do I apply the Word to my life?

- Believers are forgiven and should also live a lifestyle of forgiveness. If you should ask for forgiveness from someone or forgive a person, what can you do this week to make this thing right?
- Read the books of Mark and Romans in the next two weeks. What do these books tell you about your relationship with God? How will you apply these in your life?
- What specific step can you do in the next few days to make someone know that he or she can have a relationship with God?