

*Trinity
Presbyterian Church
(TPC)*

Communion Instruction Book

For Children and Youth of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Crofton, MD

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Introduction

Any child (Elementary School or Middle School age) who desires to partake of communion must have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and should be prepared and willing to share that testimony with the Elders of Trinity Presbyterian Church (TPC), who are charged with protecting all elements of worship (BCO 57-2).

This interview with the Elders of TPC is required prior to a child being admitted to the Communion table.

This booklet is designed to guide a child, under the instruction, care and supervision of their parents, in evaluating their personal relationship with the Lord and to instruct them in the importance and meaning of the sacrament of Communion.

Open spaces at the bottom of each page are provided for the child(ren) and parent(s) to make notes as together they work through this booklet.

An Answer Key to the blanks in the following pages is provided at the end of this booklet.

Questions and Notes:

1. Our Need for Salvation

Our Sinful State and the Repentance Needed for Salvation

Questions we will be reviewing and discussing in this module:

1. Is there some good in every man?
2. Why do some people not take sin seriously?
3. What is the difference between repentance and faith?
4. Where does our faith come from?

Your Initial Thoughts and Notes:

Our Sinful State and the Repentance Needed for Salvation

A. Salvation is a _____ gift, but it is not cheap. It cost the Lord Jesus terrible suffering as He gave His _____ for us. He not only paid the price for our _____ but He gave us His righteousness as well. Why do we need Christ's righteousness? Isn't there a little good in each of us?

Read Romans 3:9-12 and respond below:

According to the Bible, there is no little bit of _____ in any of us to help us get into heaven. Remember that God's condition for Adam to live forever was that he _____ perfectly. When we are saved, God forgives our sins and we receive the perfect goodness of a person who never sinned.

Memorize Romans 3:22

Here we learn that this perfect goodness is called *righteousness* and that it does not come from ourselves but from God. It is a free gift to those who have faith in Jesus Christ.

B. Read and memorize Mark 2:17.

In **Mark 2:17**, Jesus told the scribes that only those who are sick need a doctor.

The sickness that Jesus was talking about was *sin*. All men commit _____ in their minds, hearts, and through their actions. Some men do not care if they sin or not. They either do not know that they sin, do not care about sin, or do not see the terrible results of sin. The _____ draws men to Jesus Christ by making them care about their sickness as sinners and by seeing their need for a _____.

C. Read Matthew 27:3-5.

In this account we see Judas admitting that he had _____ by betraying Jesus. But just admitting you are a sinner is not enough. What did Judas do when he recognized he was a _____? He chose not to turn and trust in _____ as Lord and Savior, and instead he went away and _____ himself.

D. Read Matthew 18:3 and Luke 15:10.

Repentance and faith are like two sides of the same coin: by *repentance* one turns away from sin; by *faith* one turns towards God in accepting the Lord Jesus Christ. Such a turning, or *conversion*, is necessary for entrance into the Kingdom of God.

Before we can come to true faith in Jesus Christ, we must not only recognize that we are sinners, but we must turn from sin. This is called _____. Simply saying, "Oh, that sin doesn't matter; God will forgive me!" is not a sign of true repentance. Nor is only being sorry for your sin when you get caught a sign of true repentance. As we trust in Christ and depend on the finished work of Christ's sacrifice on the cross as the only basis for the forgiveness of our sins, we turn to God in a life of obedience to His commands. This is _____.

E. Read Romans 12:3 and Ephesians 2:8,9.

In these verses we learn that even our _____ is given to us by God. It is by the _____ of God that we have been saved, through *faith*. This faith is not from ourselves, but a _____ from God through the work of the Holy Spirit, so we cannot boast about our faith.

Salvation – Our Position in Christ

Questions we will be reviewing and discussing in this module:

1. Do you know that the wrong things you do each day do not please God?
2. Do you understand that you deserve God's anger and have no hope except for God's mercy that is shown to you?
3. Do you believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God and is the savior of sinners?
4. Have you received Jesus as your Savior and do you depend on Him alone for your salvation?
5. Have you decided to try to live as a follower of Jesus Christ, knowing that this is only possible by the Holy Spirit working within you?

Your Initial Thoughts and Notes:

Salvation – Our Position in Christ

F. Key Passages from the book of Romans:

Romans 3:23 says that, "... all have _____ and fall _____ of the glory of God.

Romans 6:23 tells us that the wages (or payment) for sin is _____, not just physical death. God promised eternal punishment in a place called *Hell*. This is called justice, a just reward for our sinful actions.

But God had a plan! What if the punishment for sin was not forgotten, but instead given to someone else? Then people would not get the punishment they deserve! This is called mercy. This verse tells us that the gift of God is _____ life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

G. Read Luke 3:21-22

Scripture tells us that Jesus is the Son of God. This passage describes the baptism of Jesus when the _____ came upon him in the form of a dove. A voice came from heaven saying, "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Read John 3:16

In this passage we also learn that Jesus is the Savior of sinners, and here we learn that God loved the world so much that "... He gave his one and _____ Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have _____ life."

God's Son had to become man to be the perfect substitute for us in that his death on the cross was the payment for our sins.

H. Read Mark 1:14-15

The surrender of your life to Christ involves both _____ (total trust in Jesus) and _____ (turning away from sin).

Being a Christian means being a follower of Jesus Christ. How can you do this?

You must be willing to give your life to Jesus Christ by receiving Him as your _____ and _____.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17

This verse says that you received Christ as Lord and Savior. He comes into your heart and _____ your life!

Read Revelations 3:20

You can receive Jesus into your heart at any time and you only need to do this one time. As you willingly open your heart to Him, He _____ come in. You can do this by praying like this:

Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and deserve eternal punishment. I believe that you paid the price for my sin by your perfect life and your death on the cross. I invite you now to come into my life and be my Lord and Savior. Thank you for forgiving my sins and giving me your righteousness. Amen

NOTE: in preparation for the interview with your Elders, you may want to review your testimony with your parents. You might describe the time and place during which you prayed to receive Christ as your Lord and Savior, explain why you need Jesus as your Lord and Savior, and how this affects what you do each day.

2. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (Communion)

The Body and Blood of the Covenant

Questions we will be reviewing and discussing in this module:

1. How is *blood* related to the Lord's Supper?
2. How does communion explain and replace the Passover Meal?
3. Who should partake of the Lord's Supper?
4. Why is participating in the Lord's Supper like having a personal relationship with him?

Your Initial Thoughts and Notes:

The Body and Blood of the Covenant

A. Read Matthew 26:26-29

Just before Jesus went to die on the cross, He met with His _____ to eat the Passover meal. In the middle of the meal Jesus took the bread and said, "This is My _____ which is broken for you." Later he took the cup of wine and said, "This the blood of the _____ which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

Why did Jesus call this the blood of the covenant?

In order to save us from eternal death in hell, he fulfilled the old Covenant of Works and established the new Covenant of _____.

This new covenant was made possible only because Jesus died and shed His _____ on the cross to pay for our sins. Without the shedding of blood, there can be no forgiveness of _____.

Memorize Hebrews 9:22

Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

The blood of Christ was represented at the supper by the _____. Likewise the _____ at the meal represented the body of Christ who was crucified for

our sins. Jesus told his disciples to eat and drink these things in order to _____ Him and to proclaim His death until He returned.

These new instructions of Jesus to His disciples brought to light the real reason why God's people for many years had eaten the Passover meal.

B. Read Exodus 12:5-8

When God's people were in bondage in Egypt, God told them to kill a perfect _____ and put its blood on their doorposts. Then they were to cook and eat the lamb along with unleavened _____ and bitter _____.

Later the Bible explains that this perfect lamb represented _____, who is called the "Lamb of God."

The blood of a _____ saved the Hebrews from destruction in Egypt, but the blood of God's Lamb, Jesus Christ, saves us from eternal _____ in hell!

Just as the Hebrew people celebrated the Passover feast to remember their deliverance from bondage and death in Egypt, God's people today celebrate the _____ to remember their deliverance from the bondage of _____ and eternal _____ in hell. That is how the Lord's Supper replaces the Passover Meal and why it is so special.

C. There is no age limit in the Bible for those who wish to participate in the Lord's Supper. However, there are conditions that must be met:

- 1) **Only people who repent of their sins and believe in Christ for their salvation can and should partake in Communion.** When God's people observe this special sacrament, God pours out His Spirit upon them. There is nothing magic in the bread or wine that accomplishes this, nor does the bread or wine change in to Christ's _____ or Christ's _____.
- 2) **Any child should be aware of the importance of communion and should be able to examine their own hearts before the Lord,** as discussed above.

- 3) **Any child should be old enough and advanced enough spiritually to understand and articulate the meaning of partaking of the bread and the wine.** The significance of the Lord's Supper is a reminder to believers what Christ has done for them, as described above.

D. Read John 6:48-58

Grace comes from God through a personal relationship of the believer with Jesus Christ. In this passage from John, Jesus says, "I am the _____ of _____ and he who eats My _____ and drinks my _____ has eternal life."

This is not to be taken literally, for Jesus was a man and not bread. He is speaking of *eating and drinking* in terms of having Jesus at the center of your life. Just as you take food and drink into your body to live physically, you take Jesus into your heart to live spiritually.

3. The Conditions of Taking Communion

Questions we will be reviewing and discussing in this module:

1. Why is taking communion a serious matter not to be taken lightly?
2. How am I to examine myself before taking communion?

Your Initial Thoughts and Notes:

The Conditions of Taking Communion

A. Read 1 Corinthians 11:27-30

Paul gives these Corinthian Christians a serious warning about communion. He told them, and tells US, to _____ ourselves before we "... eat the _____ and drink the _____."

B. Read 2 Corinthians 13:5.

What does "examine ourselves" mean? The Bible says that "examination" would include:

1. Making sure you are a Christian
2. Confessing all your known sins
3. Asking forgiveness of people you have wronged
4. Forgiving people who have wronged you
5. Behaving yourself in a Godly manner

Even children are encouraged to examine their own hearts by considering the items listed above before participating in Communion. We can see that the Lord's Supper can be a time of special joy and thanksgiving, but only if taken in a worthy manner.

4. Conclusion

As you come to the close of this booklet to prepare you for participation in Communion, please talk with your parents about your understanding of the sacrament of Communion, the elements, and your position with Christ.

Your parents should contact one of the Elders at Trinity Presbyterian Church to set a date to meet with a few of them for an informal interview.

May God bless you as you grow in your relationship with Him and your understanding of His Word.

Answer Key:

Our Need for Salvation:

1A: free; life; sins; good; obey

1B: sins; Holy Spirit; Savior

1C: sinned; sinner; Jesus; hung;

1D: repentance; faith

1E: faith; grace; gift

1F: sinned; short; death; eternal

1G: Holy Spirit; only; eternal

1H: faith; repentance; Lord; Savior; changes; will

The Sacrament of the Lords Supper (Communion):

2A: disciples; body; covenant; grace; blood; sins; wine; bread; remember

2B: lamb; bread; herbs; Jesus Christ; lamb; destruction; Lord's Supper; sin; death

2C: body; blood

2D: bread; life; body; blood

The Conditions of Taking Communion

3A: examine; bread; cup