A close-up photograph of a person's hands pouring coffee. The person is wearing a dark blue shirt with white polka dots and a gold chain bracelet. They are holding a brass kettle in their right hand and pouring coffee into a glass cup held in their left hand. The coffee is a light brown color. The background is dark and out of focus.

HOUSE CHURCH

THE RED DOOR COMMUNITY CHURCH

A red, irregularly shaped logo with a black silhouette of a house with a chimney. Inside the house silhouette, the words "HOUSE" and "CHURCH" are written in white, stacked vertically.

HOUSE
CHURCH

01. Section A

WHAT IS HOUSECHURCH BACKSTORY

Acts 2:46-47a
Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God...

Acts 5:42
Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

HouseChurch was birthed in 2020 during the time of lockdown when we were no longer able to gather corporately for our weekly Sunday worship gatherings. Through the wonders of technology, the grace of God and a whole lot of making it up as we went along, our HouseChurch gatherings formed and became a vital tool in the discipleship, care and encouragement of our church family.

What we didn't expect through our HouseChurch adventure was the overwhelmingly positive impact that HouseChurch had on so many of our church family. As a leadership, this got us to prayerfully ponder and consider whether this was something that we were to continue with, even once restrictions around our gatherings were eased. As we prayed, pondered and discerned what we heard was a resounding "yes".

Christians meeting in homes is by no means a modern-day phenomenon but rather a part of the foundational fabric of the Church since its inception at the day of Pentecost. We know from Acts 2:42 that the Church gathered in homes to devote themselves to teaching, to fellowship and eating together, to prayer and the taking of Communion together. This is essentially what HouseChurch is - a smaller gathering of Red Door family members, meeting in someone's home where the Word is taught and discussed, God is praised, people pray for one another and the world, and where meals, Communion and life are shared and celebrated.

WE COME TO THE TABLE BECAUSE OUR HUNGER BRINGS US THERE. WE COME WITH A NEED, WITH FRAGILITY, WITH AN ADMISSION OF OUR HUMANITY. THE TABLE IS THE GREAT EQUALIZER, THE LEVEL PLAYING FIELD MANY OF US HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR EVERYWHERE. THE TABLE IS THE PLACE WHERE THE DOING STOPS, THE TRYING STOPS, THE MASKS ARE REMOVED, AND WE ALLOW OURSELVES TO BE NOURISHED, LIKE CHILDREN. WE ALLOW SOMEONE ELSE TO MEET OUR NEED, SHARING OUR BURDENS, AND HELPING US CAST OUR CARES TO THE FATHER. THE TABLE IS A PLACE OF SAFETY AND REST, WHERE WE ARE ALLOWED TO BE AS FRAGILE AS WE FEEL. AT THE TABLE THERE IS ALWAYS ROOM. AT THE TABLE WE ARE SEEN, WE ARE HEARD, WE ARE HEALED. AT THE TABLE OUR TRUE FATHER IS THERE. AT HIS TABLE WE FIND OUR TRUE HOME.



02. Section A

ON DISCIPLESHIP & FUTURE-PROOFING WHY HOUSECHURCH

As well as being a powerful context for discipleship, HouseChurch is a vitally important way that we care for one another as family. And, in times of uncertainty, HouseChurch is also a valuable tool for future proofing church gatherings.

ON CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

One of the big "whys" behind this gathering known as "church" is the love and care of our brothers and sisters in Christ. To thrive and flourish each soul needs care, attention, and encouragement. We need to be seen, known, accepted, and loved. Made in the image of a relational God we are creatures created for deep intimate relationship with both God and one another. Gathering in a smaller group, such as HouseChurch is a vital and necessary means for caring for one another.

ON DISCIPLESHIP

Red Door is to be a doorway through which people are formed into disciples of Jesus who are equipped to love and serve God, the Church, our city, and the nations. To be a disciple of Jesus is to live a life of transformation by being with Jesus, following him, becoming like him so that we do the things he did. We believe that change and transformation into Jesus-likeness happens through 4 key factors combined: truth, spiritual practices, community, and the Holy Spirit. HouseChurch is a context through which these elements, working in combination are both taught and experienced.



ON FUTURE PROOFING

COVID has and continues to reveal the importance of the Church being able and equipped to gather in homes. But we also need to be prepared for the very real possibility of facing restrictions on our corporate gatherings due to rising persecution and hostility toward the Church. Having a robust HouseChurch model allows us to respond well to whatever challenges the future may present.

03. Section A

HOUSECHURCH GATHERINGS STRUCTURE

SCHEDULE

To honour the value of both our corporate gatherings and our HouseChurch gatherings, and to facilitate the inclusion of HouseChurch into our regular rhythm of gatherings we have adopted the following rhythm as a baseline. HouseChurches are free to gather as often as they like but this is the basic rhythm we suggest: a minimum of two HouseChurch gatherings each month, consisting of a HouseChurch at the Table gathering and a HouseChurch Sunday gathering.

FORMAT

When it comes to the structure and format of each HouseChurch we encourage a “Tools not Rules” approach. What follows is suggested and encouraged but HouseChurch Leaders have permission to adapt these elements as best serves their group.

HOUSECHURCH AT THE TABLE

The intent of HouseChurch at the Table gatherings is that they would centre around the sharing of a meal and the taking of Communion together as a part of that meal. We also strongly encourage incorporating a time of discussion around a core Spiritual Practice. Each month, a short video teaching with discussion questions is provided for people to watch before their HouseChurch at the Table gathering and come prepared for discussion. After the meal and discussion, we suggest breaking into smaller groups of 2-3 to pray for one another.

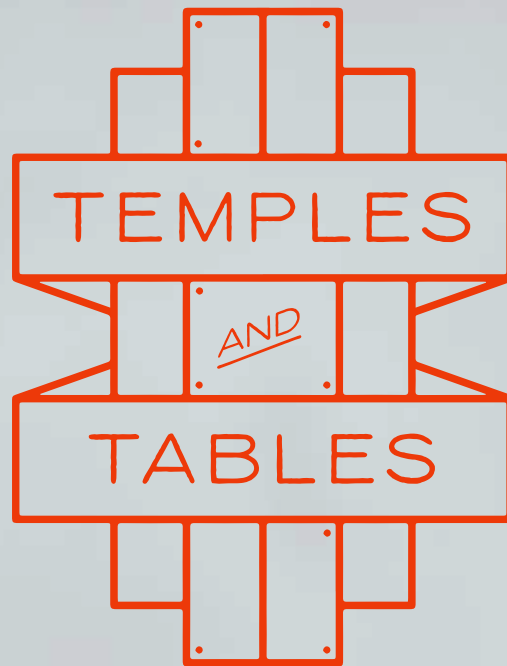
The video and discussion questions for each month are available via the HouseChurch at the Table webpage (www.thereddoor.cc/table).

HOUSECHURCH SUNDAY

These gatherings happen on the **last Sunday of each month**. A video teaching is made available, along with resources for worship, children, Communion and prayer. HouseChurch Leaders are encouraged to adapt these different elements in a way that best meets the needs of that group.

The content is available

- via our HouseChurch webpage (www.thereddoor.cc/house)
- via the Red Door App (www.thereddoor.cc/app)



EVERY DAY THEY CONTINUED
TO MEET TOGETHER IN THE
TEMPLE COURTS. THEY BROKE
BREAD IN THEIR HOMES AND
ATE TOGETHER WITH GLAD
AND SINCERE HEARTS, PRAISING GOD...
ACTS 2:46

04. Section A

■ KEEPING TRACK REALM

Realm is our online communication tool that encourages our church family to connect, share experiences together, coordinate information, share resources, and manage administration. It is a key tool in the Red Door toolbox for caring for one another. All of our data is securely stored and backed up, making it available 24/7 from anywhere using a desktop, laptop, tablet or mobile phone.

All HouseChurch leaders are required to be on Realm and maintain their group information. This information includes who is in your HouseChurch and who has been coming. Realm is a simple way that we are able to care for our people by being able to see who is connected into community.

If you are not on Realm please follow the instructions at www.thereddoor.cc/realm to join up.

You will need to ensure that you know how to access and edit your HouseChurch group on Realm. You can do this via the app or via a browser. Realm also provides for a secure way to communicate with your group in a chat format similar to how WhatsApp functions.

An instructional video of how to maintain your HouseChurch will be available at www.thereddoor.cc/hcrealm

05. Section A

HOUSECHURCH LEADERS & HOSTS EXPECTATIONS

HOUSECHURCH HOST

A HouseChurch Host is someone who has made their home available for a HouseChurch group to gather in. The Host's role is to simply commit to have their home available on the days and times designated for HouseChurch, to make a space that is welcoming and inviting and also to provide the basic equipment for HouseChurch (ie. a TV and internet connection).

HOUSECHURCH LEADER

The role of the Leader (who may also be a Host) is to essentially provide direction in terms of format and discussion and to help group members participate in the different aspects of HouseChurch.

A HouseChurch Leader should

- Be a Family Member of Red Door
- Be Committed to the Expectations of a Family Member (see next page)
- Desire to see people disciplined and cared for
- Possess spiritual maturity
- Have the capacity to navigate potential relational difficulties
- Have a teachable spirit

COMMITMENT TO EQUIP AND CARE FOR HOUSECHURCH LEADERS

It's also important to know that The Red Door Leadership is committed to equipping, supporting and caring for HouseChurch Leaders and Hosts. Lukes Bates is our HouseChurch Coordinator and is the first point of contact for any queries, concerns or SOS's.

Remember, you are not alone in this. We are here to help and support you. We deeply appreciate your commitment to disciple and care for your fellow Red Door brothers and sisters and we deeply desire to see you flourish as you take on this responsibility.

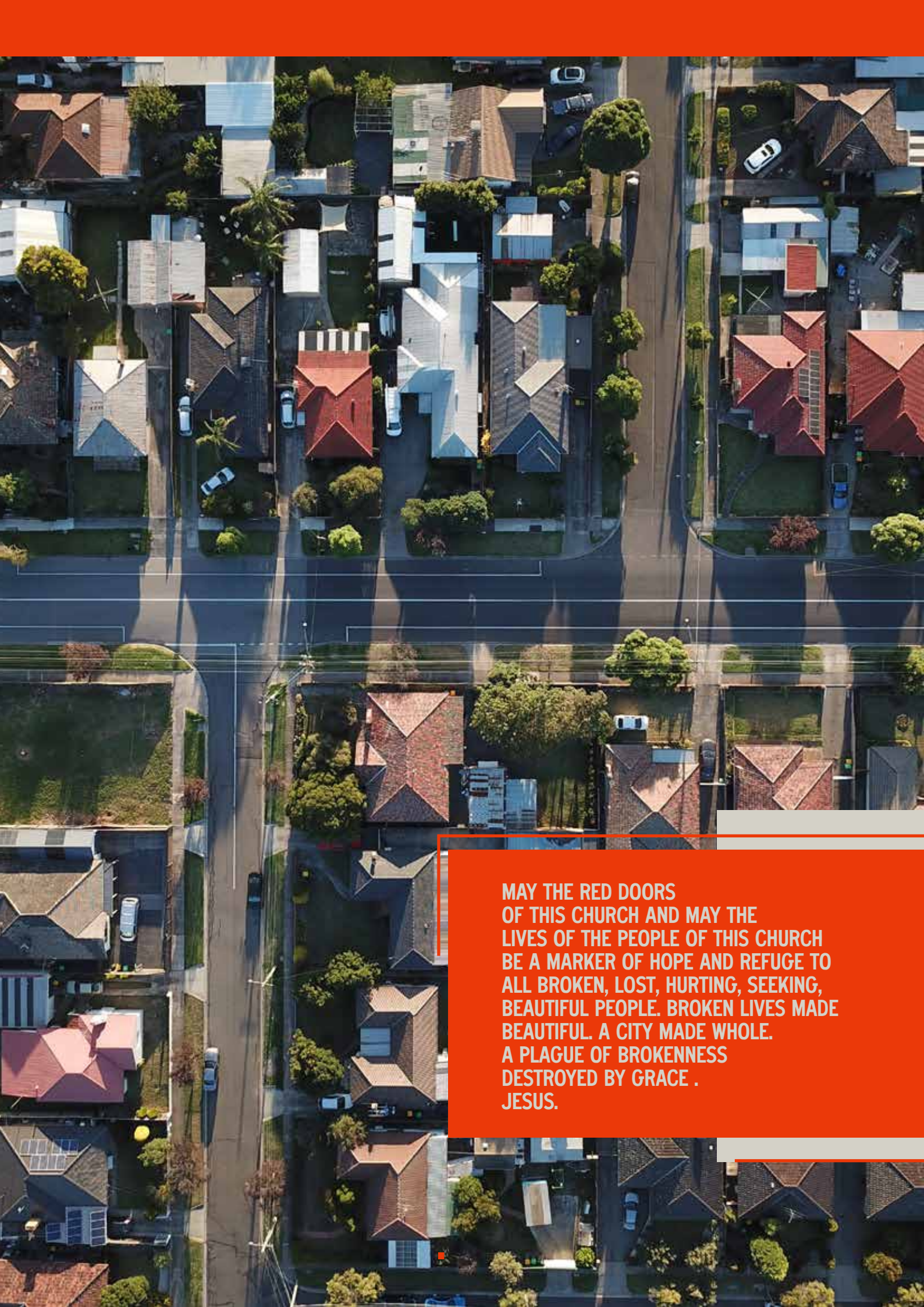
05. Section B

BEING A FAMILY MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTATIONS OF FAMILY MEMBERS?

Simply put, that you desire to follow Jesus. This desire is more specifically expressed in a willingness to seek to:

- Submit to the authority of Scripture.
[2 Tim 3:14-17]
- Pursue Jesus through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship and practice of spiritual disciplines.
[Acts 2:42-47]
- Follow the command and example of Jesus by participating in Baptism and Communion.
[Matt 28:19-20; 1 Cor 11:23-29]
- Participate in the life of Red Door by regularly being a part of gatherings, committing to a HouseChurch and by serving.
[Acts 2:42-47; Heb 10:23-25]
- Steward the resources God has given you (time, talent and treasure) in a way that is sacrificial and cheerful.
[Matt 25:14-30; Rom 12:1-2; 2 Cor 8-9:1; 1 Peter 4:10-11]
- Pursue a life of holiness as an act of worship to Jesus.
[1 Peter 1:13-16; Rom 13:11-14; Eph 4:22-24]
- Preserve and uphold the gift and sanctity of marriage and agree to walk through the steps of reconciliation before considering divorce.
[Heb 13:4; 1 Cor 7:10-11; Mark 10:1-12]
- Take seriously the responsibility of Christian freedom, especially those that could present a stumbling block to another.
[1 Cor 8:1-13]
- Confess your sin to God and others, to repent and seek help to put sin to death.
[Rom 8:13; Col 3:5; James 5:16; 1 John 1:6-10]
- Receive the loving discipline of God by following the biblical procedures for church discipline where unrepentant sin is evident.
[Psalm 141:5; Matt 18:15-20; 1 Cor 5:9-13; Heb 12:5-11]
- Contend for unity and peace within the church.
[Eph 4:1-3; Heb 13:17; 1 Peter 5:5]



**MAY THE RED DOORS
OF THIS CHURCH AND MAY THE
LIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS CHURCH
BE A MARKER OF HOPE AND REFUGE TO
ALL BROKEN, LOST, HURTING, SEEKING,
BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE. BROKEN LIVES MADE
BEAUTIFUL. A CITY MADE WHOLE.
A PLAGUE OF BROKENNESS
DESTROYED BY GRACE .
JESUS.**

06. Appendix

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TOOLS NOT RULES RESOURCES

REDKIDS

As much as possible, we are encouraging families to do church together. What's included are some resources for your children to incorporate into your House Church service. Please have a look at these below links and consider how they can best be utilised for the ages and stages of your children.

REDKIDS VIDEO

THIS WEEK AT REDKIDS

WORSHIP

Many of us think of worship as a time to sing with a band at church. But worship is so much more than that. To worship is to turn your attention and affection towards God in adoration and awe. Below are a few suggestions for worshipping with your Red Door Community on a Sunday:

TIME OF WORSHIP

SPOTIFY PLAYLIST

WORSHIP LIBRARY

GIVING

We want to partner with Jesus to serve our city. We are a church marked by radical generosity. 10% of every dollar goes directly to supporting justice work both globally and locally. Use this as a practice of counter-formation, to cultivate our hearts in the direction of generosity. Below is a simple liturgy can may be used to encourage others in your HouseChurch.

Holy Father, there is nothing we have that you have not given us. All we have and all we are belong to you, bought with the blood of Jesus. Generosity is the way of those who call Christ their Lord. We are determined to increase in generosity until it can be said that there is no needy person among us. We are determined to be trustworthy with such a little thing as money that you may trust us with true riches. Above all, we are determined to be generous because you, Father, are generous. It is the delight of your daughters and sons to share your traits, and to show what you are like to all the world. Father, we thank for your faithfulness. Thank you that we can always trust in you. We give you this offering today. With it we worship you and give our whole selves to you. Please now take it and use it for your kingdom and your glory. Extend and multiple its reach and influence we pray. May it be a great blessing to many. We ask all this in the powerful name of Jesus. Amen

GIVE NOW

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06. Appendix

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TOOLS NOT RULES RESOURCES

COMMUNION - THE LORDS SUPPER

- Prepare the elements (bread and juice)
- One person to read the following:
When we come to Christ in Communion, we aren't fundamentally doing something for him. He is, rather, doing something for us. He's supplying needy souls with the grace of the gospel. He's furnishing what we need from the resources of his sacrificial death on the cross. He's pledging to bring each of his children home to the messianic banquet where we shall enjoy in full what we now enjoy in part - life and blessing from, with, and in our Saviour.

Today we come to the table of Jesus our Redeemer! Jesus invites us here as part of the people of God. We come to the table humbly, not because we have earned a place here, but because we need mercy and help. We come because we love God, and want to love God more. We come because Jesus first loved us, and gave himself for us. We come because we want to be filled with the Holy Spirit. We come because we want to experience the mystery of God's grace. We come to proclaim our unity in the body of Christ.

- Pass out the elements
- Another person to read the following
On the night he was handed over, Jesus had a meal with his friends. He took a loaf of bread and after giving thanks to God, he broke it and gave it to his disciples. He said, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and after giving thanks, gave it to them and said, "Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, remember me." 1 Corinthians 11:23-29
- Take the elements together
- Another person to read this prayer
Let us pray: God our Creator,
thank you for the gift of your son Jesus Christ,
whose love pursues us our whole life long.
Thank you, Jesus, for giving your life to us in word and deed,
even unto death, even death on a cross.
Come Holy Spirit, feed us with your love
that we may be filled with power
to love God with all our hearts and souls and minds. Amen.

06. Appendix

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TOOLS NOT RULES RESOURCES

TEACHING & DISCUSSION

Watch this week's teaching. After listening, discuss the following questions as a group. You don't need to cover every question here. Choose the ones you think will help your group the most. We do our best to make the teaching video as brief as possible and allow the questions to lead you as the word of God does the work of God in the people of God. The discussion questions are to be found at the 'on one page' link on the app and website.

'ON ONE PAGE' NOTES

VIMEO LINK

welcome



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