

PROCLAMATION

CHECKLIST: WHAT YOU NEED

- Copies of the downloadable 622 service booklet
- Copies of the lesson handout
- Copy of the leader's notes
- OPTIONAL: A white board, easel pad, or chalk board with markers/chalk
- OPTIONAL: Bibles (ESV or similar recommended)
- OPTIONAL: Have notebooks on hand for teens to take home and use as prayer journals if they wish

ICE BREAKER: TRUST FALL

Have the teens get into pairs. If the number is odd, the leader may want to join in. Taking turns, each pair practises falling and catching each other. To begin, the partners stand close to one another (about a foot apart). The “faller” makes his/her body go rigid and signals the “catcher” when ready to fall, then falls backwards. The “catcher” gently catches him/her, never allowing the “faller” to hit the floor. At each fall, partners move a bit further apart, increasing the trust challenge.

622: BEGINNING WITH PRAYER

Begin the formal part of the lesson by saying together the first part of the order of service for young people in the booklet, up to the middle of page 4.

AT THIS POINT IN THE LESSON, ASK IF THE TEENS SUCCEEDED IN DOING LAST WEEK'S CHALLENGE, HOW IT WENT, AND WHETHER THEY HAVE ANYTHING TO SHARE.

DISCUSSION: GETTING IT WRONG

As an introduction to the lesson ask the teens to discuss the following questions.

DEPENDING ON THE COMFORT LEVEL FOR SHARING IN YOUR GROUP, IT MAY BE EASIER TO HAVE THEM VOLUNTEER ANSWERS WITH ALL RESPONSES WRITTEN TOGETHER ON A BOARD.

- What would have happened if we had said we would catch someone and then let them hit the ground?
- When someone says one thing and does another, how does it make you feel about them? Would you want to listen to that person's advice?
- There are times when we also get it wrong by failing to live up to our own beliefs. What can we do when our failures hurt someone else?

A few things worth pointing out (if they don't otherwise arise during the discussion):

- *If we had allowed someone to hit the ground after promising to catch them, they would have been hurt, but we would also have broken the trust in the relationship by saying one thing and doing another.*
- *When someone behaves in a way that is hypocritical we lose trust in them. We might feel hurt and angry, and we would usually not want to be like them, be around them, or listen to their advice.*
- *We are all hypocritical sometimes. We all occasionally get it wrong by saying one thing and doing something else. When our actions hurt someone else we can acknowledge our failure in a spirit of humility, apologize, and try to do better going forward.*

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THE LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 11

The first part of the lesson can be read aloud. Then the teens are asked to read the Bible text (either silently to themselves or aloud together), followed by some additional questions for discussion.

(IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO HELP RESPOND TO QUESTIONS THAT MAY BE RAISED DURING THIS UNIT, WE RECOMMEND “DISCOVERING THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER: A HANDS-ON APPROACH, VOLUME 2: OUR LIFE IN THE CHURCH” BY SUE CARELESS.)

Jesus introduced what we now observe as Holy Communion, with the words, “Do this in remembrance of me”. Believers of every generation have remembered him in this way, but very early in the life of the Church more specific instructions were needed because people were getting it wrong.

The Apostle Paul wrote two letters to the Church in Corinth. We can tell from reading those letters that the Corinthian Church had lots of problems, including a problem with how they were treating Holy Communion. Instead of “proclaiming the Lords’ death until he comes”, they were showing contempt for God and each other. The one good thing about the Corinthians making mistakes is that it prompted Paul to do a lot of teaching that is still relevant today.

One key teaching that we take from today’s reading is that it is important for us to approach Holy Communion in a reverent manner by making sure that we bring to it an attitude of repentance for sins, faith in Christ, and love towards other believers.

Refer to 1 Corinthians 11:17-34.

(THE TEXT IS PROVIDED ON THE BACK OF THE HANDOUTS AND IN THESE LEADERS’ NOTES SO THAT EVERYONE CAN MARK IT UP AND MAKE NOTES ON IT IF DESIRED. ALTERNATIVELY, YOU CAN READ OUT OF A BIBLE).

Read through the text. Then ask the teens to respond to what they’ve just read. Here are some questions to help guide the discussion.

- Based on what Paul wrote in this passage, what was going wrong in the Corinthian Church?
- What was at risk because of what was going wrong?
- What does Paul want to see happen instead?

A few notes and reflections for reference:

- *There was a lot going wrong. There were divisions (v18). There was self-centredness, made evident by some people eating and drinking to the point of drunkenness while others got nothing. In doing this they were treating the Church with disrespect and humiliating each other (v21-22). There was irreverence (v27) and a failure to examine their way of life before participating (v28).*
- *By treating each other in an unloving manner, the Corinthians were making a mess of their relationship with one another. By failing to prepare themselves in a reverent manner, they were placing themselves under God’s judgment. Paul suggests that this judgment was taking a tangible form with some Corinthians who were sick or had died. Paul says that when they come together to eat this meal, it is meant to “proclaim Christ”, but the witness that their behavior is giving is a bad one.*
- *Paul wants them to show love by waiting for one another. He wants them to show reverence and sincerity by examining themselves and participating in a worthy manner. He wants them to remember what this is all about: remembering the sacrificial death of Jesus, offered up for us.*

DURING EACH LESSON, IF THE TEENS RAISE THEOLOGICAL OR BIBLICAL QUESTIONS THAT YOU DON’T FEEL CONFIDENT ABOUT ANSWERING, SAY SO, BUT LET THEM KNOW THAT YOU’LL FIND THE ANSWER AND RESPOND AT THE NEXT MEETING.

PROCLAMATION

PREVIEW: AT-HOME CHALLENGE

Take a brief moment to look at the at-home challenge together.

THE WEEKLY "AT-HOME CHALLENGE" IS TYPICALLY A SIMPLE ASSIGNMENT TO SPEND SOME QUIET TIME IN PRIVATE PRAYER. ENCOURAGE THE TEENS TO GET NOTEBOOKS THAT CAN BE USED AS PRAYER JOURNALS. ASSURE THEM THAT THEY WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO SHOW THEIR JOURNAL OR THEIR PRIVATE PRAYERS TO ANYONE.

Each morning and evening, follow the prayer plan that you created for yourself.

(If you didn't make one, try saying the morning and evening prayers from the "Forms of Prayer to be used in Families", which begins on page 728 of the BCP. If you don't have a copy, you can look it up here: <http://prayerbook.ca/resources/bcponline/family-prayer>.)

Set aside a few moments when you pray, to quietly reflect upon this verse from scripture (1 John 4:10-11):

"In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

- AND/OR -

Take some time to pray through this prayer, pausing to reflect after each phrase.

Almighty and everlasting God, who of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant, that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(PRAYER FROM THE MINISTRY TO THE SICK, BCP PAGE 580)

622 (AGAIN)

Close with any prayers that might be appropriate in the context of the discussion of the day.

AT THE END OF EACH LESSON, IF YOU FIND THAT YOU STILL HAVE LOTS OF TIME REMAINING, YOU MIGHT CHOOSE TO TAKE SOME TIME TO EXPLORE THE "PRAYERS AND THANKSGIVINGS" SECTION IN THE BCP (PAGES 39-62, OR YOU CAN USE THE DOWNLOADABLE BOOKLET). AS YOUR GROUP MEMBERS COME ACROSS PRAYERS THAT THEY FIND RELEVANT, PAUSE AND PRAY THEM TOGETHER. IF YOU'RE PRESSED FOR TIME, YOU MIGHT CLOSE WITH THE THEMED PRAYER FROM THE AT-HOME CHALLENGE.

Then finish with the "Grace", the final prayer in the booklet.

PROCLAMATION

1 CORINTHIANS 11: **PROCLAIM IT RIGHT**

¹⁷But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. ¹⁸For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, ¹⁹for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized. ²⁰When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. ²¹For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. ²²What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not.

²³For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

²⁷Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. ³¹But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. ³²But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

³³So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another— ³⁴if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home—so that when you come together it will not be for judgment. About the other things I will give directions when I come.