

**A. Initial questions:**

1. What is communion at its simplest? What is the purpose of communion?
2. What role should communion have in corporate worship?
3. On a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the most important element in the worship and 1 being the least, where should communion rank?
4. If you designed the "perfect" worship service lasting one hour, how would you structure it?

**B. Principal considerations:**

1. Communion is a gift that is to be celebrated, as Joel so well reminded us on Sunday.
2. Communion is a Christian extension of the annual Jewish Passover meal.

**Exodus 12: 12-13** 12 On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

3. Communion is a reminder of Jesus' past sacrifice and future return.

**Matthew 26: 26-29** 26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

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

**Luke 22:7-8, 15-16** 7 Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. 8 Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover." When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. . .

15 And he said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. 16 For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.”

4. Though communion is a time for personal reflection, the name reminds us that it’s a communal event binding the body of Christ together.

**1 Corinthians 11: 23-31** 23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” 25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. 27 So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. 28 Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. 29 For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. 30 That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. 31 But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment.

### **C. Final reflections:**

- How can each of us better prepare for our worship on Sunday in general and for communion in particular?
  
- Is there a better way each of us can celebrate and commemorate Jesus during communion on Sunday?