

SUMMER SEASON

WE ARE CHURCH Session 4: Communion

BEFORE THE VIDEO:

- Welcome and prayer – **WAIT ON COMMUNION UNTIL THE END**
- If possible, plan this lesson around a meal, and wait to eat the food until after the lesson
- Share life together (What's been going on? Things to celebrate? Prayer needs?)
- Pray together

PLAY THE VIDEO:

- Access the video files online: www.westernhillchurch.com/summerseason
- Play BASIC: WE ARE CHURCH - Session 4 (Communion)
 - Make sure you test the video file and the audio before the group arrives!

AFTER THE VIDEO:

Ask the group the following questions and discuss the video together...

- What was going through your mind when the girl left the camp with the luggage chest and when the others came and joined her? How are you starting to think about church differently?
- Paul told one church that, when it comes to this thing they called the Lord's Supper, it would have been better for some of them to stay home than to break bread together because they missed it so bad. Francis said, "I don't want to just assume that because we have people in the room who took bread and took the cup that we are actually practicing the Lord's Supper."
 - How have you thought about communion in a way that is probably not biblical?
- In the video, Francis said, "I know it might be awkward at first to be with the family at a meal and to just say, 'Hey, family, let's break some bread together and remember His body.' I know it might be strange at first if you are out to eat with friends and you just said, 'Hey guys, let's just remember what binds us all together.' But you guys are the ones I know, you are the ones I trust, and we are following Him together – and it is a beautiful thing."
 - How have you thought about practicing the Lord's Supper, and how does that need to change?
- Francis said, "I look at church back then and it was just simpler – more commitment, but simpler... Is it really possible to go back to a form of church that is simple? Isn't there something in us that actually longs for that?"
 - What if church could be really simple? What if this group was what you saw as your family? What if the big productions and salaries and programs all went away, and this was what you called "church?" What if you decided to learn how to be a church with these people, and what if you decided that you were going to be "all in" here and be committed to multiplying this type of community over and over again? How do you feel when you think about this possibility when it comes church?

- **Note:** Our leaders are always praying about how to lead the church to be more like this. We aren't canceling service this Sunday, but what if we got to this point? Where is your heart when it comes to learning to be His church together?
- While this type of gathering is more basic, there is a scary side to it. In the old way of church, you could hide – you could maybe help out, or attend a service, or serve in the nursery, or maybe even sing in the choir – and then during the rest of the time you could build your own kingdom and build your own life. But what we are talking about here is about a commitment – about being a part of something, about seeing this group as your family, about living a certain way always and being part of a people who are living that way with you. We gather together because we all agree that Jesus called us to follow Him and to really live the Jesus way. This is about joining arms with people who are saying we really want to follow Him and know Him and keep in step with Him. It is about being part of a group of people that are committed to sharing fellowship together, and studying His Word together, and praying together – and sharing communion together.
 - Do you want our group to be like this? Do you want to think of this group as your church, as your family? Test your heart and be real and get transparent. If you want to live this way, why? If you don't want this in your life, why not?

LEAD COMMUNION:

Break bread right there in front of them. Lead them to focus on Jesus and to think about what He has done. Remind them that we are all here because of what Jesus has done, and remind them that we are called to be His church, not our church.

If at all possible, share a meal here and encourage everyone to enjoy being part of the family. Encourage them to laugh, to share life, to listen, and to love each other the way that Jesus loves us.

CLOSE:

Let everyone know when the next event is for group, and remind everyone when we will resume our regular group meetings...

Remind everyone about these important dates:

- TOGETHER: Picnic – August 11th from 5-8:30pm at Wiley Post Park
- Back-to-Church BASH – August 13th during the service at Western Hills Church

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