



# SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Sermon Title: “*THE LORD’S SUPPER ... WAIT FOR ONE ANOTHER*”

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

Date: October 1st, 2015

## STORIES OF FAITH

As you begin this session with your Life Group, invite the group to share ‘Evidences of God’s Grace’ that they experienced or observed this past week. How have you seen God at work?

## OPENING COMMENT

Paul thoroughly rebukes the Corinthian church (read [11:17-28](#)) How do you think the church responded to Paul’s words? How would you have responded to this type of pastoral rebuke? Would you strive to be humble and teachable?

*<sup>23</sup>For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, <sup>24</sup>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.” <sup>25</sup>In 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” <sup>26</sup>For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. <sup>27</sup>Whoever, 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. <sup>28</sup>Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. <sup>29</sup>For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgement on himself. <sup>30</sup>That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. <sup>31</sup>But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. <sup>32</sup>But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. <sup>33</sup>So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another - <sup>34</sup>if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home - so that when you come together it will not be for judgement. About the other things I will give directions when I come.*

## WORKING THROUGH THE PASSAGE

### A) **The Main Thing is to Keep The Main Thing The Main Thing**

There is a lot going on within the Church Paul is writing to. As you read the text, draw out some of the interesting questions that you may have and discuss them with the group.

Why does Paul highlight (v19) “for there must be factions among you ...”?

Discuss what the over-arching problem was within the Church. (v17-22)

Do you see the same problems in today’s Church Culture?

How could you make a difference in today’s Church Culture to act differently than the Church in Corinth?

### **1) THE PERSON AND WORK OF JESUS CHRIST**

How does recognizing the Body of the Lord in the following three ways impact your understanding of what Christ did for you and the practice of what Communion means?

i) Literally: The Body and Blood of Christ, broken and shed for us: What Christ did to secure our salvation.

ii) Metaphorically: The Church is the Body of Christ: we recognize “one another” gathering together. What does Communion mean for the Church Body?

iii) Individually: How does taking Communion impact your own relationship with Christ? What does Communion mean for you?

Why does Paul highlight the practice of taking communion in a “unworthy manner”? - Why is a right attitude/heart important for a Christian today?

In this specific context, it seems appropriate that Paul’s command “wait for” should be translated “care for one another”, “receive one another warmly”, “grant one another table fellowship”, “show hospitality to one another” to receive each other as equal members of the Body of Christ.

The Corinthian Church lost it’s main reason for why they gathered and why they participated in Communion. Share a time when you started some activity, some routine and you found yourself doing something very different than originally intended. Have you ever asked yourself: “Why am I doing ...?”

Discuss the following quote: *“God wants to save us from: the penalty of sin - salvation from what we’ve done; the power of sin - salvation for what we’re called to do today; and the presence of sin - salvation for our future.”* Jeff Vanderstelt

The good news message is the power of God for salvation. What do we all need to be saved from and for?

**B) When we wait for One Another we take the time**

- 1) We look back in remembrance of Christ’s death
- 2) We look up in adoration of God
- 3) We look inward in self-examination
- 4) We look around in consideration of others
- 5) We look forward in anticipation of Christ’s return
- 6) We look outward & around to proclaim Christ to others

When you look at the list above, which ones have you focused on more, or which ones have you neglected, as you have participated in Communion?

What does the Lord’s Supper mean to you (11:23-26)? Before you partake of the bread and the cup, do you ensure that you are in right fellowship with God and others? Take time to read [1 John 1:9](#); [Matthew 5:23-24](#); [Romans 12:18](#). Discuss together how you can prepare yourself and your family for a meaningful remembrance of the Lord’s Supper.

**SHARE & PRAY**

Take all the time your group needs to pray for the needs among you.

Share what you have discovered about The Lord’s Supper and the body of Christ.

One of the greatest ways in which we can “love one another” is to “care for one another”, “receive one another warmly”, “grant one another table fellowship”, “show hospitality to one another” and to receive each other as equal members of the Body of Christ. Pray together for opportunities where you can demonstrate and practice “waiting for one another” within the church and outside the church.