

RESOURCES

Small Group Worship Resource.

Communion

Here's a simple pattern for a communion service that you can share with your group. (*Source Gathering for worship (Baptist Union of Great Britain.)*)

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Come to this table, not because you must but because you may, not because you are strong, but because you are weak. Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you a right to come, but because you need mercy and help. Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him more. Come, because he loved you and gave himself for you. Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his Body.

INSTITUTION

The apostle Paul tells us of the institution of the Lord's Supper:
"For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he also 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.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

1 Corinthians 11.23–26

THANKSGIVING

Loving God, we praise and thank you for your love shown to us in Jesus Christ. We thank you for his life and ministry, announcing the good news of your kingdom and demonstrating its power by lifting up the downtrodden, and healing the sick, and loving the loveless.

We thank you for his sacrificial death upon the cross for the redemption of the world, and for raising him to life again, as a foretaste of the glory we shall all share.

We give you thanks for this bread and wine, symbols of our world and signs of your transforming love.

Send your Holy Spirit, we pray, that we may be renewed into the likeness of Jesus Christ and formed into his Body. We pray in his name and for his sake. Amen.

[OPTIONAL] *You may like to play a worship CD or invite others to offer thanks to God.*

SHARING THE BREAD

The bread may now be broken and shared with the words:

Jesus said, 'This is my body which is for you; do this in memory of me'.

SHARING THE WINE

The wine may now be lifted up and shared with these words:

In the same way, he took the cup after supper, and said: 'this cup is the new covenant sealed by my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this in memory of me.'

WORDS OF ACCLAMATION AND PRAYER

After all have received the wine and after a period of silence, sentences and prayers may be used, such as:

Your death, O Lord, we commemorate. Your resurrection we confess. Your final coming we await. Glory be to you, O Christ.

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home.

Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.

Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

[OPTIONAL] *You may wish to ask for prayer requests and prayer for each other at this point*

THE GRACE

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.