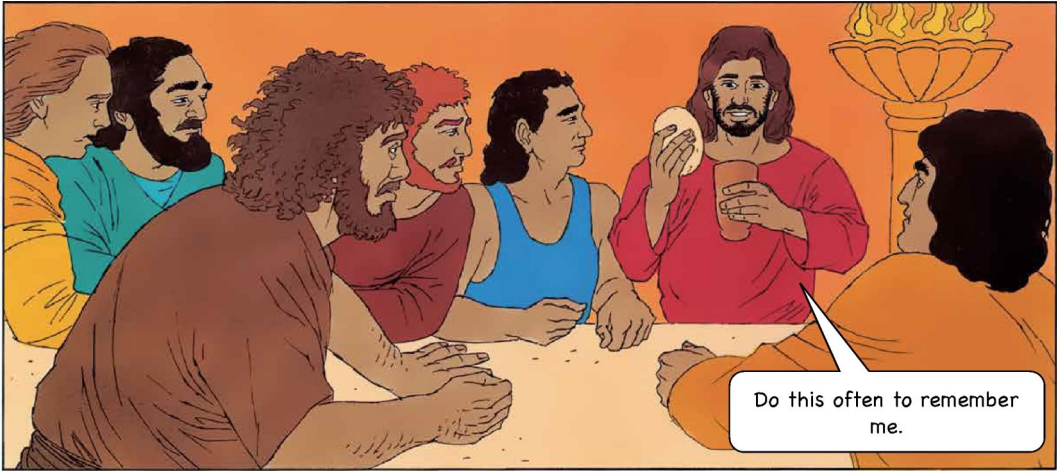


COMMUNION

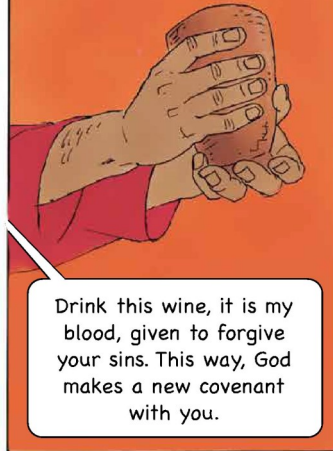
READ FOR YOURSELF: *Matthew 26:2-30 and John 13:34-38*



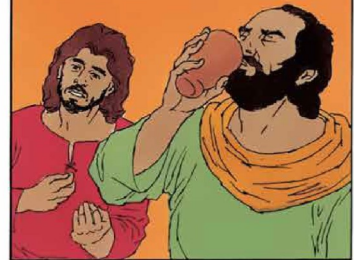
Eat this bread, it is my body.



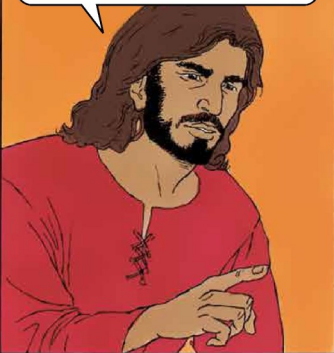
Drink this wine, it is my blood, given to forgive your sins. This way, God makes a new covenant with you.



I give you a new commandment. Love one another as I have loved you.



If my love is in you, then all will know that you are my disciples.



Lord, I'll follow you everywhere. I'll give my life for you.



Peter, by the time the cock crows, you'll have denied me three times.



COMMUNION

The Lord Jesus sits with His disciples at table. He hands around bread and wine. While He does that He says that people must always keep celebrating this meal. Because the bread and the wine keep reminding us that He gave Himself for us.

Every time you celebrate this holy meal you take in Jesus' love. You experience what He has done. He gave His life for you. You can see it. You can taste it. You are involved with all your senses. Jesus' gift of His life for you is as real as eating this bread and drinking this wine is real for you.

In eating the **bread** you think of the body of Jesus that He sacrificed His life unto death for you and for me. In drinking the **wine** you think of Jesus' blood. With the blood He made a new covenant between God and mankind. God made a new agreement: Our sins are forgiven. That is why eternal friendship is possible between God and us.

Every time we celebrate Communion or Eucharist, we experience again that the Lord Jesus gives Himself for you and me. The Lord God has declared His love for us. And He keeps to His covenant, to His promises. Jesus established the Lord's Supper, so that we will never forget this new covenant. His promises make us thankful and happy. That is why the Communion is sometimes called 'the Lord's supper' or 'the festival meal of thanksgiving'.

MEMORY VERSE

"The greatest love a person can have for his friends is to give his life for them." (John 15:13)

WHO IS JESUS?

Love

"God is love. God showed His love for us by sending His only Son into the world."

(1 John 4:8b-9a)

If you want to know how great God's love is, you have to look at Jesus. Only the Lord Jesus can teach you what love is.

He says:

"The greatest love a person can have for his friends is to give his life for them." (John 15:13)

He did only give His life for His friends, but even for His enemies. (Romans 5:8). His love is pure grace, rich and overflowing and undeserved!



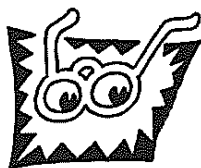
OLD TREASURES

In the time of Moses the Lord God made a covenant with His people. It was confirmed with the blood of animal sacrifices. That blood was sprinkled over the people.

“This is the blood that seals the covenant which the Lord made with you when He gave all these commands.” (Exodus 24:8).

The prophet Jeremiah writes God's promise in the Old Testament that a new covenant will come. God's laws will then no more be laid on people from the outside. People will get a new heart, in which God's Spirit lives. And so they will know from the inside what God desires.

“The new covenant that I will make with the people of Israel will be this: I will put My law within them and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be My people.” (Jeremiah 31:33).



EXTRA INFORMATION

The Communion

The Communion is meant for everyone who loves Jesus. There is strength in it, every time you eat and drink of it. That is, it strengthens your faith in the perfect, completed work of Jesus.

- The bread stands for Jesus' body. He carried out our sicknesses in His body, so that we might receive healing (Isaiah 53:4-5).
- The wine stands for Jesus' blood. His blood flowed, so that we are cleansed from sin and forgiven (Ephesians 1:7).
- There is no bitter herb in the Communion anymore, like in the Pesach meal of the Jews. Jesus has taken the bitter guilt of sin upon Himself.

The followers of Jesus in the early church know the power of the Communion. And so they often celebrated it daily in their homes. (Acts 2:46).

TIP

It is wonderful what Jesus has done for you. Every time you take bread and wine at the Communion say: “Thank you Jesus!”

GODS COVENANT STANDS!

When a man and woman get married, they make a covenant. That is called a marriage contract. They promise each other to be faithful. Both of them sign in a book. And give each other rings as proof.

The marriage contract begins when they say yes to each other. But after that the contract has to be maintained. You have to pay attention to each other. Talk over everything together. Listen well to each other. Think of each other. Celebrate regularly that you belong together. And show that you appreciate the other by giving gifts.

God has made a covenant with you when He gave Jesus. He has spoken His ‘yes’ and will always remain true to that. If you love Him, you will want to maintain that covenant. Communion helps you to do that.



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. How are the old covenant and the new covenant sometimes called?

2. For whom was the old covenant meant?

And for whom is the new covenant meant?

3. With what blood was the old covenant sealed?

And with what blood was is the new covenant sealed?

4. What is the Communion sometimes called?

5. What do the bread and the wine stand for?

Bread:

Wine:

6. Where and how often did the first Christians take Communion?

7. How has God shown what love is? (John 15:13)?

BIBLE READING

Sun	Matthew 26:26-30
Mon	1 Corinthians 11:20-32
Tue	John 13:34-38
Wed	Jeremiah 31:31-34
Thu	Hebrews 9:11-15
Fri	John 15:9-17
Sat	1 John 4:7-16



ACTION POINT!

Write down three ways in which God maintains His covenant with you.

1.

2.

3.
