

Life toward God

KIDS

daily devotions

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EASTER WEEK

The Lord's Supper and the Promise of the Holy Spirit

Ben Roberson

Scripture

“Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, ‘Take, eat; this is my body.’ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.’” Matthew 26:26-28

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth.... You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.” John 14:16-17

Devotion

Do you remember the 10 Plagues that God sent to the Egyptians when the children of Israel were slaves in Egypt? In the last plague, God struck down the firstborn of every Egyptian household as judgment on Egypt. But God gave very specific instructions to Moses to protect the Israelites (Exodus 12). Every household was to take a lamb without blemish, a male one year old. The blood of the lamb was to be put on the door frames of every Israelite house. When the Lord passed through Egypt that night, he saw the blood of the lamb, and he passed over the houses of Israel. Israel was saved from God's judgment, and Pharaoh finally let God's people go. God wanted Israel never to forget that he rescued them from Egypt, and so the Israelites were commanded to celebrate the Passover every year, and to teach their children how God saved Israel and brought them out of Egypt.

What does all this have to do with the Lord's Supper? I'm so glad you asked. In God's perfect plan, the day before Jesus would be crucified was also the time for the Passover. Jesus and his disciples celebrated the Passover just as God commanded, remembering how God had rescued his people. While Jesus ate the Passover meal with his disciples, he started something new. We call it the Lord's Supper or Communion. Jesus gave the disciples bread and a cup, and he said that the bread was his body and the cup was his blood. Jesus was telling the disciples that he would be the Passover lamb sacrificed for the sins of his people. His body and his blood would be given to rescue them. And he commanded the disciples to celebrate the Lord's Supper to remember his love for them. He wanted his disciples to have something they could see and taste that would remind them that he was still with them, even after he was crucified.

(devotion continued on the next page)

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Jesus tells the disciples later that night that even though he will be leaving them, they will not be alone. God the Father will send them the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit will be with them forever. You know, Jesus had a lot on his mind that night - he knew he was about to be betrayed by Judas and arrested, and he would die on the cross the next day. But even though Jesus had these heavy burdens, he was more concerned about his disciples. He cared enough about them to give them the Lord's Supper and the promise that his Spirit would be with them forever. God cares for us, and the Lord's Supper and the gift of the Holy Spirit show that God will be with us forever. He will never leave us, and nothing can separate us from his love.

Questions

3-5-yr-olds

How do you know God loves you?
What are things he promises you
that show you he loves you?

1st-3rd graders

What were the requirements for
the Passover lamb? How is Jesus
our Passover lamb? Why do you
need Jesus to be your Passover
lamb?

4th-6th graders

In the Lord's Supper, what does
the bread represent? What does
the cup represent? Why do we
celebrate the Lord's Supper? How
does the Holy Spirit help you?

Prayer

Dear Father, Thank you that you never leave us or forsake us. Thank you, Jesus, for your great sacrifice that rescues me from my sins. Please wash me with the blood of the Lamb. Thank you, Holy Spirit, that you speak to me through the Bible and that you are with me forever. In Jesus' name, Amen.



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