

## Getting to Know Jesus- Adult Bible Discovery Guide- June 7, 2020

Welcome to Adult Bible Study for this week. This study is designed for you to do on your own or with your family.

**Opening Prayer:** *Lord Jesus Christ, You suffered in Your holy body and shed Your precious blood to redeem Your fallen creatures. Grant us to come often to Your Supper, trusting in Your promise, and so to receive to our everlasting benefit the gifts You give in Your body and blood: the forgiveness of our sins, life with You, and eternal salvation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

### **A few things to consider as we begin:**

*Why is forgiveness of sin something that we should earnestly desire?*

*Why do some not think forgiveness is a big deal?*

*Is Holy Communion the only way that forgiveness is given by God?*

From Luther's Small Catechism:

### **The Nature of the Sacrament of the Altar Second**

*What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?*

These words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

### **The Central Thought:**

In the Sacrament, we receive a great treasure: the forgiveness of sins. Our Lord's words assure us that this treasure is "passed along and made our very own" (LC V 29) when we receive His body and blood. This forgiveness sets me free from my sinful past, in which death and tyranny of Satan were my only future. Christ's body and blood give me a new life and a new future every day.

### **Read: Exodus 12:1-14**

For you to answer:

- *How did the Passover meal and the blood of the lamb benefit Israel?*
- *How does the meal of Christ's body and blood benefit us?*

As Christians, we confess that the forgiveness of sins won by the death of Jesus on the cross is now delivered to us in the body and blood of Christ. This is the most important gift we can receive.

### **Read Leviticus 17:10-14; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Hebrews 9:11-14, 22**

It is significant that in the Old Testament, God strictly forbids the eating of blood under the penalty of death for "the life of the flesh is in the blood" (v. 11). Yet, in establishing the Lord's Supper, the Son of God gives us His blood to drink for the forgiveness of our sin. One thing this demonstrates is that in Christ's blood there is life and that His life becomes our life in this meal.

## What is the benefit promised in the Sacrament?

### Answer:

- The forgiveness of sins, which Christ won when He suffered in His body on the cross and shed His blood to redeem us, is now promised in His body and blood given to us to eat and to drink.
  - *“And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus once for all.”* –Hebrews 10:10
  - *“He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed.”* – 1 Peter 2:24
  - *“This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”* –Matthew 26:28
  - *“The blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.”* – 1 John 1:7
- Where sin is forgiven, there is life with God now and salvation everlasting.
  - *“Jesus then said to them, ‘Truly, truly I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’”* – John 6:32-33
- As Christ gives us victory over sin and Satan in the Sacrament, He strengthens us for new life in Him.
  - *“But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.”* –Romans 8:10
  - *“He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed.”* -1 Peter 2:24
  - *“The reason the son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.”* -1 John 3:8

## Why should Christians be encouraged to receive the Sacrament frequently?

### Answer:

- Jesus invites us and urges us to come.
  - *“Take, eat; this is My body.”* – Matthew 26:26
- We need the comfort and strength of Christ’s forgiveness for living our new life while we are assaulted by the devil and struggle with our sinful nature.
  - *“This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”* – Matthew 26:28
- We are united with Christ and our fellow believers in this Sacrament.
  - *“Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.”* – 1 Corinthians 10:17
- As Christ has given Himself to us so completely with His body and blood, so, too, the Sacrament strengthens us to give ourselves in sacrificial love and service to the neighbor.
  - *“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”* – John 15:12

*“The Sacrament is a pure, wholesome, comforting remedy that grants salvation and comfort. It will cure you and give you life both in soul and body. For where the soul has recovered, the body also is relieved.”* (LC V 68)

*“The true and worthy guests, for whom this precious sacrament above all was instituted and established, are the Christians who are weak in faith, fragile and troubled, who are terrified in their hearts by the immensity and number of their sins and think that they are not worthy of this precious treasure and of the benefits of Christ because of their great impurity, who feel the weakness of their faith and deplore it, and who desire it with all their heart to serve God with a stronger, more resolute faith and purer obedience.”* (FC SD VII 69)

### **A question to ponder:**

*Why do you think Jesus gave us a meal as one of the most sacred acts for Christians to do regularly?*