

## Getting to Know Jesus- Adult Bible Discovery Guide- June 14, 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 give Your body and blood under bread and wine that we may know with certainty that our sins are forgiven by Your atoning sacrifice on the cross. Grant us so to eat Your body and drink Your blood, trusting in Your words that we may receive what You declare—the forgiveness of sins—and so live in You even as You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

**As we begin:**

**Read: Genesis 1:1-3; John 1:1-18**

*How would you describe the power behind the Word of God?*

*What has the word of God accomplished?*

From Luther's Small Catechism:

### The Nature of the Sacrament of the Altar

#### Third

*How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?*

Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: "forgiveness of sins."

#### The Central Thought:

Jesus's words make eating a morsel of bread and taking a sip of wine a great and gracious feast rather than an empty ceremony.

**Read: John 12:44-50; Mark 4:35-41**

For you to answer:

- *Why should we take Jesus at His word?*

As Christians, we confess that the words of our Lord Jesus are just what they say. "*What Christ's lips say and speak, so it is.*" (LC V 14)

**How can bodily eating and drinking give us such great spiritual benefits as forgiveness, life, and salvation?**

Answer:

It is not simply eating and drinking but the words of Christ—together with His body and blood under the bread and the wine—are the means through which forgiveness is bestowed. "*Now the only way this treasure is passed along and made our very own is in the words, 'Given...and shed for you.' For in the words you have both truths, that it is Christ's body and blood, and that it is yours as a treasure and gift.*" (LC V 29)

## Does everyone who eats and drinks the Sacrament also receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation?

### Answer:

No. All who eat and drink in the Sacrament receive Christ's body and blood and so are offered the benefits He has promised. But it is only through faith in Christ's words that we receive the benefits offered in our Lord's testament.

- *"For in it [the Gospel] the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, 'The righteous shall live by faith.' -Romans 1:17*
- *"Jesus said to him [Thomas], 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen yet have believed.'" -John 20:29*

### Note:

In the Sacrament, Jesus joins bodily eating and drinking to faith in His promise. This connection between bodily action and faith can also be seen in Jesus's healing miracles, where there is blessing in touching Jesus or being touched by Him and faith receiving the blessing (see **Matthew 9:20-22; 27-29**)

## How, then should we eat and drink the Lord's Supper?

### Answer:

We should eat Christ's body and drink His blood confidently believing that he was delivered for our offenses and raised for our justification. Trusting in His saving work, we receive His body and blood, given to us under the bread and wine, as the guarantee of our forgiveness.

- *"But the words 'it was counted to him [Abraham]' were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in Him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification." -Romans 4:23-25*
- *"The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? -1 Corinthians 10:16*
- *"For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes." -1 Corinthians 11:26*

*"All those who let these words be addressed to them and believe that they are true have what the words declare. But those who do not believe have nothing, for they let this gracious blessing be offered to them in vain and refuse to enjoy it. The treasure is opened and placed at everyone's door, yes, upon the table, but it is also your responsibility to take it and confidently believe that it is just as the words tell you." (LC V 35)*