

## BREAKING BREAD: STUDY MATERIAL

### HOLY HABITS: BREAKING BREAD

READ TOGETHER: 1 Corinthians 11, verses 23-26; Matthew 26, verses 17-30  
Mark 14, verses 12-26; Luke 22, verses 17-23

Each of these narratives claims to be an account of what happened at the Last Supper.

- What do each of them have in common?
- Do you see any significant differences between them? What are they?
- What would you say are the crucial points being made in the narratives of the Last Supper? When people write down a story, they generally have a special point they are trying to make, so what were these writers trying to pass on to us?

Now read John 13, verses 1-30

- What is so very different about this account?
- John's Gospel has been carefully arranged so that each "story" is set in the context of some special teaching of Jesus. Why do you think John's account of the Last Supper is so differently recorded? What was he trying to tell us?

READ TOGETHER: Acts 2, verses 42-47

- Why was "breaking bread" so important to the early Christian community?
- Do you see a link between the breaking of bread and the other "Holy Habits" such as prayer, teaching, fellowship, giving, signs and wonders?
- How does partaking of Communion make a difference in your 24/7 life?

READ TOGETHER: 1 Corinthians 11, verses 17-34

- What was going wrong in the celebrations of the Lord's Supper in the church at Corinth? Why was it wrong?
- What do you think has been/ is "wrong" with the ways in which Christian churches have celebrated Communion since then? What makes these ways "wrong?"
- Looking at verses 27-29, what do you think makes a person "unworthy" to receive Communion?
- What do you believe would prevent you from receiving the fullness of God's grace in this Sacrament?
- Is it for an individual person to decide whether they should or should not receive Communion or is it for the church? Why do you think this?

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LOOK AT COMMUNION PRAYERS TOGETHER (*two from the URC Service book are printed out below and people can be invited to bring others*)

- Ask each person to underline a particular phrase or sentence that means something special to them. Share this together.
- Ask people to share any memories they have of a particularly significant Communion service: significant either because of where, when and how it was celebrated or significant because of what was going on in their lives at the time.
- Invite people to share their favourite "Communion Hymns."
- Now ask each other "what does Holy Communion mean to you?"
- Do you all offer the same answers? If not, is this a problem or a blessing?

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