

● **Looking to the present – sharing**

\* 1 Corinthians Ch 10: v 16-17

The cup is \_\_\_\_\_

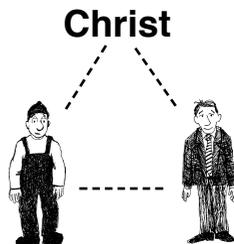
The bread is \_\_\_\_\_

This act is an expression of our *union with Christ*. We belong to him and he is in us.

**Communion – the body of Christ**

The church is often called the body of Christ. It is through this body that he operates here on earth. As a Christian, you are part of the body of Christ.

The act of breaking bread is also an expression of our relationship to each other. We belong to one body as the fragments of the loaf belong together.



\* 1 Corinthians Ch 11: v 27-34

Whom should we examine before breaking bread? \_\_\_\_\_

We should make sure that our relationship with God and other people is good. We should *repent* and *forgive*.

● **Looking forward – expecting**

\* 1 Corinthians Ch 11: v 26

We should remember the death of Christ by bread and wine until when?

\_\_\_\_\_

\* Matthew Ch 26: v 26-29

Where will Jesus have wine again? \_\_\_\_\_

Who will be with him? \_\_\_\_\_

\* Revelation Ch 19: v 6-9

This is a description of the heavenly banquet. What is it called?

\_\_\_\_\_

As we break bread, we look forward to our everlasting fellowship with Jesus — the Lamb who was slain but is now seated on the throne.

Who is the bride of the Lamb? \_\_\_\_\_

# Bread and Wine

\* Acts Ch 2: v 42-47

Here we have a window into the vibrant, exciting life of the church in the early days. These few verses are packed with the activities of the Christians in Jerusalem — can you find 10 different activities?

- \_\_\_\_\_ (v 42)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (v 42)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (v 42)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (v 42)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (v 43)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (v 44-45)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (v 46)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (v 46)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (v 47)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (v 47)



How many of these things are you seeing happen in the church today?

Where did they 'break bread'? \_\_\_\_\_ (v 46)

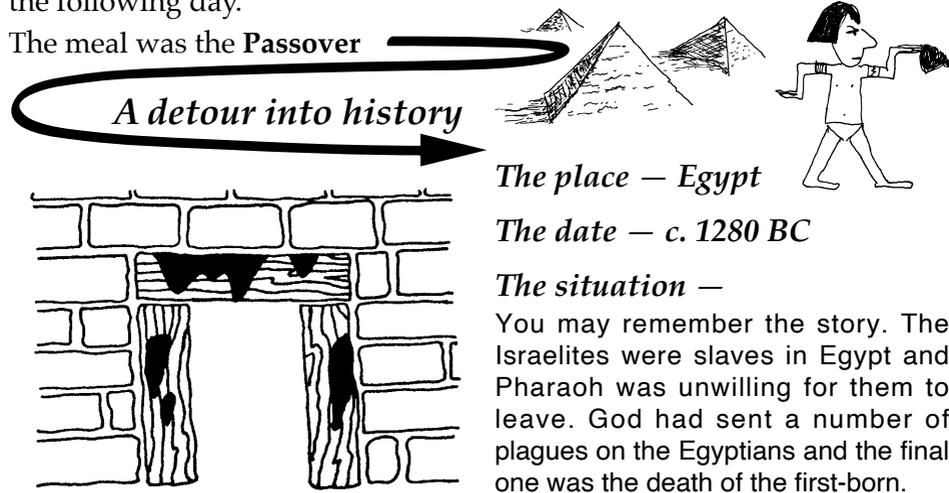
From the very beginning, Christians have remembered the crucifixion of Jesus by sharing bread and wine together. It is called by various names — *communion*, *breaking of bread*, the *Lord's Supper* etc.

## ● Looking back – remembering

### \* Luke Ch 22: v 14-20

This was the last meal that Jesus had with his apostles before he died. Later that evening he was arrested and tried before being crucified on the following day.

The meal was the **Passover**



**The place – Egypt**

**The date – c. 1280 BC**

**The situation –**

You may remember the story. The Israelites were slaves in Egypt and Pharaoh was unwilling for them to leave. God had sent a number of plagues on the Egyptians and the final one was the death of the first-born.

### \* Exodus Ch 12: v 21-28

What kind of animal was sacrificed? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was the blood put? \_\_\_\_\_

Why was it called the 'passover'? \_\_\_\_\_

### Back to Luke Ch 22 – AD 30

The disciples were celebrating the Passover with Jesus at the Last Supper. The meal would have been taken in stages with *four cups of wine*. The *first cup* was passed round with a dish of herbs and bitter sauce, the story of the Passover was then recited and Psalm 113 sung before the *second cup*. The main meal of roast lamb, unleavened bread (no yeast) and bitter herbs was eaten before prayer and the *third cup*. The celebration was completed by the singing of Psalms 114-118 and 136 and the *fourth cup*. The two cups mentioned (Luke Ch 22: v 17, 20) were probably the second and third cups. It was with this third cup that Jesus drew attention to his forthcoming death.

What did Jesus say the *bread* represents (Luke Ch 22 v 19)?

When you take the bread, you can *remember* the suffering of Jesus. He was abused, spat upon, whipped, mocked, dressed in a purple robe, crowned with thorns, deserted by those who had followed him, made to struggle under the weight of the cross and crucified.

What does the *wine* represent? \_\_\_\_\_

(v 20)

A *covenant* was a contract or promise made between people and in ancient times it was often sealed by shedding the blood of an animal and eating a meal together. Jesus was saying that because he was going to die for the sins of mankind, a new covenant was being made between God and man. Jesus died to reconcile us to God.

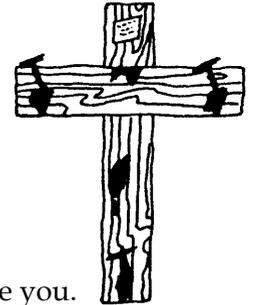
### \* 1 Corinthians Ch 5: v 7

Who is our Passover Lamb? \_\_\_\_\_

John the Baptist said of Jesus, "The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world."

Because Jesus has died, God will *pass over* our sins and we will escape on the day of judgment.

As you take the wine, *remember* that Jesus died to save you.



### Healing

#### \* Matthew Ch 8: v 14-17

Jesus died to take away our sins – but what else did he bear?

#### \* Isaiah Ch 53: v 4-6

What are we healed by (v 5)?

#### \* 1 Peter Ch 2: v 24

Jesus provides forgiveness and healing by his death on the cross (called a tree here). As you read about the life of Jesus, you will find that healing was a very important part of his work – he came to make us whole in every way. If you are ill or have some physical ailment, don't be afraid to ask God for healing – he can make you better! Many have been healed as they have read the verses above.