

# PREPARING YOUR CHILD TO RECEIVE THE LORD'S SUPPER

*And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying,*

*"This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." (Luke 22:19)*



## Dear Parents,

The Session (the elders) of *Grace Presbyterian Church Fallbrook* is providing this guide, which explains in three steps how your child may receive the *Lord's Supper*. Please follow the steps outlined below. If you have any questions, the elders will be happy to answer them. It is our joy and privilege to help you, parents, through this important step in your child's spiritual growth. We look forward to sharing the *Lord's Supper* with your child!

## Step 1: Preliminary Considerations

- 1. Both or one of the parents need to be a communicant member of Grace Fallbrook as baptism marks membership in God's covenant community.*
- 2. Your child must be baptized before he or she receives permission to receive the Lord's Supper. If your child is not yet baptized, please talk with an elder.*
- 3. The Session's approval is required in order for your child to receive the Lord's Supper. The Session's approval is contingent upon your child's understanding of the basic concepts of our faith.*

## Step 2: Session Interview

The questions below deal with sin, repentance, faith, and the *Lord's Supper*. This is also the pattern used in the PCA's *Book of Church Order* when adults come for membership, baptism, or admission to the *Lord's Supper*. Once you determine your child is ready, you and the elders will schedule an interview for your child.

Please take your child through the questions below and read the Scripture passages together. Ask your child to give his or her own answers. Then tell your child what your answers would be. At the time of the interview, your child may bring written answers and read them, if that is more comfortable. Some small questions may still be asked.

### *1. Who is Jesus and why did He die on the cross?*

Your child should have a basic understanding of substitutionary atonement. Substitutionary atonement is the idea that Christ died as a substitute, in place of the sinner who actually deserved to die. See Isa 53:4-6; John 10:11-15; Rom 5:6-8; 2 Cor 5:21; Gal 3:13-14; Heb 9:27-28; 1 Pet 2:24.

### *2. Did Jesus need to die for you, too? Why? What things have you done in the last day or week that Jesus would have to die for you?*

Your child should know sin not simply as a concept, but something from which he or she needs to be saved. See Deut 5:6-21; 6:5; Rom 3:23.

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*3. Could you explain to a friend how we can be free from the fear of being punished for our sin? What does the Lord call us to do?*

How is salvation received? By trying harder to keep the *Ten Commandments* or other requirements, or by hearing the message of the gospel and believing? See Rom 10:9-13; Gal 2:20; Phil 3:8-11.

*4. Do you like reading the Bible? Do you like to pray? Why are these things important for a Christian?*

Jesus calls us to be his disciples, to learn everything he has taught us and obey them. See Matt 28:19-20.

*5. Can you say what Communion, or The Lord's Supper, is? Do you know why we take it?*

Your child needs to be able to “discern the Lord's body.” See 1 Cor 11:29, as well as the entire chapter 11 for context. The basic meaning of the *Lord's Supper* is faith in Jesus Christ, whose body was broken and whose blood was shed for the forgiveness of our sins. Also, the wider context of the *Lord's Supper* is uniting believers to one another in the church. Note Paul's rebuke to the Corinthians whose participation in the *Supper* brought division, rather than unity in the Lord! See 1 Cor 11:17-22.

### **Step 3: The Admission of Persons to Sealing Ordinances (see BCO Chapter 57)**

We have found that some children who seemed ready at home are not able to give satisfactory answers during the elder interview. There may be many reasons for this, and it is at this stage no cause for alarm. If the elders feel your child needs a little more time before he or she is ready to receive the *Lord's Supper*, we will seek to schedule another interview with your child.

If the elders are satisfied with the interview, your child will be asked to answer the questions below during a Lord's Day service on a date determined by you and the elders. You are encouraged to explain these questions to your child beforehand. Your child is invited to receive the *Lord's Supper* beginning that Lord's Day service in which he or she answers these questions.

*1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?*

*2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?*

*3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?*

*4. Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?*

*5. Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?*

The Session looks forward to welcoming your child to the Lord's Table!