

## **Celebration of the Lord's Supper**

**Worship:** Pick a Christian CD/DVD with a favorite song of worship and praise to listen to as a group.

**Scripture reading:** Have volunteers read the following passages aloud: **Isaiah 9:1-7; Isaiah 53; Philippians 2:1-11.**

**Devotional thought:** The passages of Isaiah were written about 680+ years before Jesus entered the world. From the pre-Christ era, it would have appeared that He was born to die as much as to reign. Many assumed He would reign before He died, but as we know, His reign began only after His death, resurrection, and exaltation. However, we should consider that He was reigning with the Father before His earthly life at the time of these prophecies. He knew what He was leaving heaven to face, but He also knew He'd be back, having achieved the Father's grand plan which was conceived even before the fall of Adam and Eve.

Jesus did what He did to please the Father and fulfill the Father's plan. When you take the juice and the bread, you are symbolically joining Jesus Christ in affirming that your life exists solely to please the Father, regardless of what that may require of you. Are you willing to suffer with Christ? Are you willing to accept the shame of the cross upon you? Hebrews 12:2-3 says "*For the joy set before Him, Jesus endured the cross, despised the shame and sat down at the right hand of God.*"

Jesus' love and devotion for the Father, and for us, enabled Him to follow through with the plan. What might He ask each of us to follow through on? Can we answer, "So be it"? Along with Mary, can we say, "Be it done unto me as You have said"?

### **The Lord's Supper:**

Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

Pass the bread and the juice as group members remain reflective.

Declare this prayer in unison: "*May we walk worthy of the calling with which you have called us. May we carry our cross faithfully in Your honor.*"

Eat the bread and drink the juice together.

**Scripture reading:** Philippians 3:7-14.

**Group prayer:** With Bibles open in front of you, conduct a time of prayer, allowing whoever is willing to voice sentence prayers of thanksgiving, praise, and intercession based on the content of Philippians 3:7-14.

## **Practical Tips in Serving the Lord's Supper**

1. Prepare the elements simply, sacredly, and symbolically.
2. Be sensitive to timing in your meeting.
3. Before group, purchase and prepare the elements. Break up pieces of cracker or soft bread on a small plate or tray. Don't use large servings of bread or grape juice. You are encouraged to use grape juice, not wine, because wine may be a cause of stumbling for some people.

Bring the elements into the room or to the table when you are ready.