

Lord's Supper Devotion

To God Be the Glory (Song #4)

- I. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. He created man and woman and called them Adam and Eve.
- A. They had only two commands – to tend the garden and to not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- B. One day Eve went for a walk and ended up, guess where? That's right! Right in front of the forbidden tree! As she was admiring it, Satan approached her.
1. Satan - So, what are you doing Eve?
 2. Eve - Oh, just admiring the fruit on this tree.
 3. Satan - Well, why don't you just eat some?
 4. Eve - Oh, no! I mean, God said that we would die if we even touched it.
 5. Satan - Oh, come on! Really? Do you think God would actually kill you? No, he's just being unfair because he doesn't want you to be like him.
 - a. So, Eve eats.
 - b. And Adam eats.
 - c. And the world has never been the same!
- C. What happened? What does this have to do with the Lord's Supper?
1. Sin entered the world through this act in the garden (Romans 5:12). What is sin's impact? We could say spousal and child abuse, drugs, rape, murder, lying, stealing... The list goes on.
 2. The most important impact of sin is the broken community between us and God (Isaiah 59:1-2).
 - a. Imagine for a moment: Wouldn't it be awesome to be Adam and Eve as they are walking with and talking to God in the garden?
- D. *So what does God do?* He takes the initiative. He begins to rebuild community.
1. He cares for Adam and Eve and clothes them (Genesis 3).
 2. But that didn't work.
 3. God had to start over with Noah and his family.
 4. He chooses Abraham and promises to bless the world through him.
 5. He also chooses Isaac, Jacob, and the twelve fathers.
 6. This leads to the nation of Israel, but Israel is not the means by which God will bless the world. Israel was the means through which salvation would come.
 7. Israel sins and God breaks them up and divides her into the northern tribes and the southern tribes.
 8. The ten northern tribes are destroyed because of their sins by the Assyrians.
 9. The two southern tribes last a little longer, but they too sin against God and as a nation, Israel is destroyed by the Babylonians.
 10. Through it all, God has been promising a Messiah.
 11. One day, an angel appears to Mary and says, Hey, I have chosen you to be the mother of my Messiah and Jesus is born.
 12. Jesus spoke the truth! But the religious leaders of his day didn't like it. Eventually, they murdered Jesus on the cross. It was horrible! It was brutal! It was spectacular!
 13. The Sunday morning after Jesus' crucifixion, some of the women who were Jesus' disciples went to the tomb.
 14. *What did they find?* The tomb was empty! Jesus has been raised from the dead (I Corinthians 15:3-4).

O, Listen To the Wondrous Story (Song #496)

15. *But why?* To save us (Romans 5:6). But why do we need saving? The very thing that destroyed community in the garden is the very thing that must be removed to restore community!
- E. As is common in any community or family, people always gather to share a meal. Jesus' followers have a special meal called the Lord's Supper. It is a meal that celebrates the community that God has restored to us.

I Will Sing the Wondrous Story (Song #509)

- II.** The bread: *Why did Jesus have to die?* God has always demanded a bodily sacrifice: from Able to Temple sacrifices to Jesus. Jesus' sacrifice was the ultimate because through the sacrifice of his body, God was able to take away the Old Covenant and replace it with the New Covenant. That is extremely important for us. Jesus' sacrifice allows us to live under a law of liberty. Jesus' law is a law that actually promotes freedom from Satan, sin, selfishness, and mediocrity. The Lord's supper is a celebration of freedom. (Prayer)
- III.** The grape juice: *Why did Jesus have to die?* God has always demanded a blood sacrifice: from Able to Temple sacrifices to Jesus. Jesus' sacrifice is the ultimate because through the sacrifice of his blood, God has been able to provide us with the opportunity to have our sins forgiven. Only sin stands in our way of a relationship with God (Isaiah 59:1-2). Jesus' blood removes our sins and gives us the opportunity to have restored community with God. The Lord's supper is a celebration of community. (Prayer)
- IV.** *What does the Lord's Supper represent?* How much God loves you and that he was willing to allow his son to be sacrificed just for the opportunity, the possibility that he might have community with you

Our God is An Awesome God (Song #38)