



Celebration

Celebration in your Group

Blessing and Affirmation Prayer

A powerful practice in your life group is to celebrate each member by sharing what we love and appreciate about each of them. By doing this, we are also celebrating God for his creativity in each person, which is an expression of worship to God.

Take an extended time to have a few people share what they love and appreciate about each person in your group. You can go around the circle and have a few people volunteer to share their blessing and affirmation about that person. You can even put a chair in the middle of the circle and have that person sit in the “blessing chair” while group members share what they appreciate. Then pray for that person.

Communion

Celebrating Communion in your group can be a great way to celebrate what Jesus did for us on the cross. It is also a great way to reaffirm our belief and faith in Jesus as our Lord and Savior. While Communion is an important and sacred celebration, it can be done simply and reverently in any group setting.

Here are a few tips:

Elements: Gather some elements beforehand. You can use bread and juice from your home, or gather a few pre-packaged elements from the Worship Center the weekend before your meeting. You can always go to the Next Steps Kiosk and ask a pastor to help you. You can also take a trip to the grocery store and find a box of matzah crackers and kosher grape juice to make it special. (Note how the matzah is “pierced” with holes, and “bruised” with dark spots, as in Isaiah 53:5).

Bible Reading: As an option you can read one of many passages that talk about communion in the scriptures: John 6:53-58, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, Matthew 26:26-30.

Process: Pass the elements around to each person. The leader can then direct the group to take the elements by announcing, “This bread represents the body of Jesus

broken for you. Do this in remembrance of Him. This juice represents the blood of Jesus shed for you. Do this in remembrance of Him.”

Prayer: A time of reflection is helpful as you take the elements to allow people to examine their own lives, submit themselves to God, and affirm their belief in Jesus as Lord and Savior. You can then close your time with a time of prayer for the needs in the group as well as an affirmation of what God has done for us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.