



The Community of Faith: Sacraments

In recent weeks we have reviewed important personal and family practices of discipleship. In this session we will consider two important community practices that we do together with the Body of Christ that are means of grace which connect our lives to each other.

Starting thoughts for your group -

- Communion (or Eucharist) is an important Sacrament, but also a bit mysterious. What memories do you have of taking Communion, perhaps as a child or teenager? Did Communion seem special, or perhaps more like a ritual?
- Baptisms are a wonderful time of celebration as a Community of Faith. What do you enjoy most about baptism services at Eagle Naz?

Watch Video #5, then discuss...

Community Practices: Communion, Baptism, Worshipping Together

1 - Sacrament of Communion (Eucharist) - *The Greek word eucharisto means "I give thanks". This act unites us in one spirit as we offer our gratitude to Jesus.*

- Read these passages on fasting and abstinence:
 - **Jesus taught that the bread and juice are symbols of His body and blood, reminding us of the cost of our sin. He is our Passover lamb of freedom:**
 - Read Luke 22:14-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
 - **The Church "broke bread" (took Communion) together in their homes:**
 - Read Acts 2:42-47
- Discuss with your group what this practice means to you.

2 - Sacrament of Baptism - *a public declaration of our faith, symbolic of being buried with Christ and raised to new life with Him.*

- Read these passages about the symbolism of baptism:
 - **Baptism symbolizes our identification with the death and resurrection of Jesus:**
 - Read Romans 6:1-8
 - **The Early Church practiced baptism as a symbol of a changed life:**
 - Read Acts 2:37-41
- Discuss this practice with your group - have you been baptized?

3 - Meeting Together For Worship - *Hearing the Word taught and preached, practicing corporate worship, prayer, fellowship, and accountable discipleship.*

- Read these passages on corporate worship:
 - **The Early Church practiced this:**
 - Acts 2:42-47 (again!) - *the disciples devoted themselves to these things!*
 - **We are encouraged to not become isolated in our Christian lives!**
 - Read Hebrews 10:23-25
- Discuss this practice - how important is meeting together with other believers?

4 Community Practices for Every Disciples of Jesus:

Corporate Worship / Accountable Discipleship

Exercising My Spiritual Gifts in My Church / Loving & Serving My Community

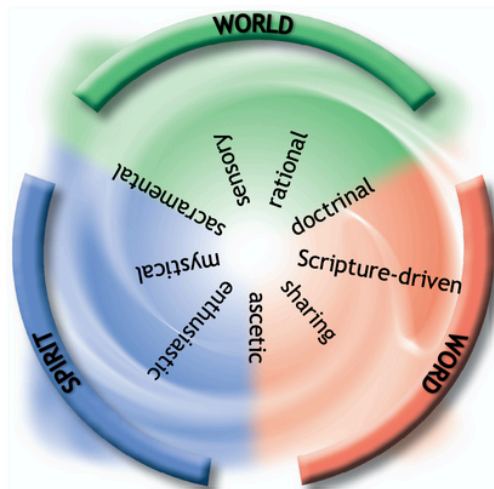
EN-CORE

JOURNEY

SCRIPTURE • BELIEFS • PRACTICES

Connection > Isolation!

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 says, "Two are better than one because they have a better return for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other, but **woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help.**" Consider what this passage says about the importance of our relationships with other Christians! Our society has become more isolated in recent years, but what reasons would you give for the importance of connection with other believers?



Accountability!

Busy schedules can easily cause us to let meeting with believers or consistently attending church slide. How can your group help?