

This material in this document is to be used as a guide to lead through the **third session** of the 'Kindly help' study, produced by the Methodist Church in Ireland. Methodist Centenary Church put together a revised Bible Study, taking the material from MCI and making it into a small study. It is our hope that churches and small groups looking to use the MCI material but were having difficulty creating a Bible Study format from it that this resource will give them a helping hand in guiding it. The study material was put together for a small group context of 9 people.



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### Bible Study Session 3- Leader's guide

Open in prayer.

Scripture Reading: 1 Cor. 11:17-34

- Found on the back page of the Bible study material.
- **Read**
  1. What is Paul's issue with the church in Corinth? (17-22)
    - a. Doing more harm than good (17)
    - b. Physical division (20)
    - c. Socioeconomic division (21-22)
      - i. Particularly against servants who would always eat the leftovers.

### Explore

1. Jesus said "This cup is the new covenant in my blood". What is a covenant?
2. Do you know the names of any of the covenants in the Old Testament?
  1. The Noahic Covenant - **Genesis 9:7,11**
    - i. As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it." I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth."
  2. The Abrahamic Covenant - **Genesis 15:5**
    - i. He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."
  3. The Mosaic Covenant – **Exodus 19-24**
    - i. The law
    - ii. The 10 commandments
      1. Blessings for obedience, curses for disobedience

4. The Davidic Covenant – **2 Sam. 7:16**
  - i. Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me[b]; your throne will be established forever.”
3. What is the new covenant?
  1. **Jeremiah 31:31-34**
    - i. “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah.<sup>32</sup> It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them” declares the Lord. This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. <sup>34</sup> No longer will they teach their neighbour, or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the Lord. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

- **Respond**

1. How would you explain communion to someone who doesn't know about it but wants to learn?
2. Are there any practices that we can put into place to make sure we are going to the Lord's Supper in 'worthy manner'? (27)
3. What is your favourite part about sharing communion?

## Disagreement: 1 Cor. 11:23-25 – “This is my body”

Context:

As we have seen, this new covenant is to be observed regularly. Within the Methodist Church and most Protestant traditions, Holy Communion is celebrated monthly.

Within the Roman Catholic Church, Holy Communion is celebrated at every mass. Some Catholics go to mass daily and receive communion.

“This is my body” – two views.

- Catholic church – speaking literally.
  - Jesus didn’t say this represents my body; he says this is my body
  - Its not symbolic. If you want eternal life, you’ve got to eat and drink it.
- Protestants – its symbolic
  - He was saying this represents my body.

As with any position we take on moral, social, political issues. There is always a way for others who disagree with you to pick apart your conviction that led you there. It is the same when it comes to theological matters. Holy Communion is one example. We are going to look at both theological views within the Roman Catholic tradition and Protestant tradition and how we can use scripture to work against them. With the aim being **to show that one can make the Bible say whatever we want it to say**. That is to say we can create disunity amongst the global church (other denominations) by using God’s word against ‘the other’ (denominations in this case) because of how ‘they’ interpret it differently.

### Problems with both views

Taken from a sermon preached by Dr Tim Keller of Redeemer Presbyterian Church

<https://podcast.gospelinlife.com/e/the-supper/>

Catholic view

- When Jesus says ‘this is my body’
  - On the night he said these words, **his body was holding the bread**, and his actual body (bread) hadn’t been shed yet.
  - He had to be talking about it symbolically because the bible has in other places all you have to do is believe and you will have eternal life.

Protestant view

- This is just a symbol.
  - John 6:54-56
    - Unless you eat the flesh, you won’t have eternal life.
    - Alluding to the lord’s supper
      - My words are spirit, my words are life.
      - Feed on them, drink on them
  - ‘Remember’
    - Eat and drink in remembrance.
      - You recall.
    - Means more than that.
      - What’s the opposite of dismember?
      - Member means a body part.
      - Graft, sow, fuse to re member it

- Take something that is not part of your being and make it part of your being again.
  - You eat and drink his words – you RE MEMBER
- Have a look at some liturgy or hymns/songs your community uses. See if any of these 're connecting' words surface.

**Questions arising**

1. How do you understand Holy Communion?
2. How do we maintain our unity when we have different views on one of the most important aspects of our worship?