

Holding a Communion Service at Home

Communion began on the annual celebration of Passover when Jesus told his disciples to remember his sacrifice as they ate the bread and drank the wine. Just as Israel was celebrating the sacrifice of the Passover lamb when the angel of death passed over their homes, so believers in Jesus celebrate and remember his sacrifice of our sins when he died on the cross. Holy communion uses bread as a symbol of the body of Jesus and wine as a symbol of his blood. The act of taking communion does not save us, it is an act of worship and remembrance.

1) Remember, having communion is not about rules or legalism. It is all about remembering what Jesus told us to remember, Him and Him alone. While we are free from legalism, we must also do our best to view communion as a sacred ceremony of our faith.

2) Acquire the elements that you will need for communion

- Representation for “the body:” Bread or crackers that can be broken into small pieces (gluten free if you need it)
- Representation for “the blood:” Grape juice tends to be preferable as it would best represent the original context, but anything will do. Remember rule #1?

3) Find your serving items

- You will need small glasses for each individual for the “blood” element. Try to keep the glasses as simple/plain as can be so that the focus is on what you are doing. If all you have are Disney character cups because you have a bunch of kids, no worries (Rule #1).
- One plate for the bread element should do as each person can take a piece of bread/cracker from it.

4) Create an “altar”

- A coffee table, TV stand, etc. work well. Anything that is a flat surface that you can place the elements on before serving. Make it clean and center the focus on the elements.

-Be creative but keep the focus on the ceremony. A candle, small cross, or purple cloth draped over the “altar” makes a meaningful communion.

5) Place the elements on the altar ready for serving

- The bread/crackers will be served first, broken into small pieces on the platter.
- The juice will be served second and can be in individual cups already to go or can be poured from a pitcher/container as you serve.

6) Serve communion

- Read scripture before serving the element of “the body.” Matthew 26:26 is a simple verse to read: ²⁶ *Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.”*
- Serve the bread/cracker to everybody. Let them take it from the plate themselves and eat it at their will. Some may pray before they eat.
- Read scripture before serving the element of “the blood.” Matthew 26:27-28 is a simple verse to read: ²⁷ *And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.*
- Serve the juice to everybody. Let them drink it at their will. Some may pray before they drink.

7) Close in prayer

- Keep your prayer focused on what communion represents, the breaking of Jesus’ body and the spilling of His blood for your sins.

There are many ways to serve communion, this is a basic approach for those who may have never done it before. As you feel comfortable, there are other ways to do it and other verses that can be read. Just remember, it is not about putting on a show but all about remembering the sacrifice that Jesus made.