

Aim of lesson

To look at Paul's teaching about the Lord's Supper and the resurrection.

Bible background

1 Corinthians 10:15-17; 11:17-34; 15.

Outline of lesson

Remind the class that Paul wrote to the Corinthians to answer some of the problems they had written about and because of some of the things he had heard. Ask the class to tell you what problem he is answering after you read together 1 Corinthians 11:17-22.

Discuss with the class the questions in the workbook. What does Paul describe as *not* the Lord's Supper? Ask the class for their ideas about what the Lord's Supper is. and then read together v23-26 to make sure the class have grasped the central idea of remembering Christ and his death.

Bread and wine

Ask the class, maybe in pairs, to look up references to the bread and wine to find some ideas each can remind us of, in the past, present and future. The bread can help us think of the body of Christ that he gave when he died on the cross, the body of Christ now – the church, of which all believers form a part, and that if we accept Christ as the bread of life now, we can have eternal life with him in the future.

The wine can remind us of Christ's poured out blood, the fact that we can have our sins forgiven now because of his sacrifice, and it can help us look forward to being with the Lord Jesus in his kingdom. Have each pair of students report back on the ideas they have found.

No resurrection?

Ask the class to look up 1 Corinthians 15:12 to find another problem that Paul deals with. It is clear that some were saying that there is no resurrection of the dead.

1 Corinthians 15 is devoted to teaching the Corinthian church about the resurrection. Paul first teaches that Christ was raised. Read together v1-11 to see that this is an essential element of Paul's gospel. Have the class note the witnesses to the resurrection that Paul mentions, and label the pictures of them in the workbook (they can choose which face represents Peter, James and Paul.)

Read together and discuss either v12-23 or v20-23, depending on the age and concentration of your class. Have the class fill in the two lines on the worksheet considering Paul's teaching about Christ being raised as a firstfruit, and the fuller harvest of the resurrection of those who belong to Christ when he comes.

What will the resurrection be like?

The last question in the workbook, and the illustration of the flower and the seed, is to promote discussion on what the resurrection will be like. Verses 35-38 and 42-44 could be used as the basis for the discussion. Verses 50-52 can be included to show what will happen to those who are still alive when Christ returns. Bring out that although we know that those raised to life will be immortal, perfect and like Christ, we cannot know exactly what it will be like any more than we could guess what a plant would look like by merely looking at the seed.

Digging deeper

Of first importance

By looking at 1 Corinthians 15 we can see how important Paul thought it was that the Lord Jesus had been raised for the forgiveness of sins, especially for himself, whom he considered the worst of sinners.

Relevance to our lives

You may like to invite the class to attend a breaking of bread service or ask them what difference the knowledge of the resurrection makes to them. Note the difference it makes to Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:19.

Prayer

You may like to form the class into two groups. One could write a prayer about the ideas from the section on the breaking of bread, and the other on the resurrection. These could be read to the whole group.

Other suggestions for activities

- An older class could study the ideas from the Passover which come through to the breaking of bread service.
- The class could collect their own and other's ideas on the reasons they would like to be raised to eternal life.
- You may like to bring the question of judgment into this discussion.