

LORD'S SUPPER GUIDE

January 2017



HANDS TOGETHER
LIVES ALIGNED IN PRAYER

This devotional guide will give you a step-by-step instructional on how to conduct your prayer time with your Dgroup.

FOCUS: God's Sovereignty

"The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters." (NIV) - Psalm 24:1-2

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." (NIV) - Genesis 1:1-2

PRAISE (10 minutes)

Praise God through singing. Sing as a group.

Suggested songs:

- Sovereign Over Us (Aaron Keyes)
- The Great I Am (New Life Worship)
- Be Thou Exalted (New Life Worship)
- Behold Our God (Sovereign Grace)

PONDER (15 minutes)

This is a time for individual reflection.

1. Reflect on the Psalm 24:1-2. To whom does the earth and all the living creatures in it belong to?
2. Read and meditate on Genesis 1:1-2. Why is God the only one who can claim ownership over all creation?
3. If God is sovereign, meaning he created all things, has ownership over every creation and rules throughout heaven and earth, how can you practice good stewardship over everything he has entrusted to your care?

PRAY (20-30 minutes)

Divide your Dgroup into groups of 2-3.

You may follow these steps:

1. **Confession:** *"If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;"* – Psalm 66:18 (NIV)

Unconfessed sin blocks our prayer. Ask God to reveal any hidden and deliberate sins. Confess those sins individually to God and to your accountability partner/s. Confession involves turning away from our sins. *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."* 1 John 1:9 (NIV).

Pray for one another. Do not counsel. This is a time for listening and praying.

2. **Thanksgiving:**

- a. Give thanks to God for His sovereignty.
- b. Praise God for the continuous efforts of CCFTulongTayo movement; helping out the Yolanda victims, which is now at phase two. Thank God also for all the donations and the volunteers who packed the goods.

3. **Intercession:**

- a. Pray for CCF
 - Pray for our pastors and leaders - for humility, guidance, and wisdom in leadership as well as protection from spiritual pride and attacks of the enemy.
 - Pray for CCF Fulltime staff- for intimacy with the Lord, protection from burnout, joy in serving as a fulltime worker, and balanced time with family.
 - Pray for the CCF satellite churches that they will always be aligned to God and the leadership and that there will be no division among them.
- b. Pray for the Philippines
 - Pray for the salvation of all our government officials that they may be transformed to lead a life of integrity, humility and compassion.
 - Pray for the Yolanda victims in Northern Iloilo and Visayas especially Leyte, Tacloban and Bohol that they may experience God's presence, provision and comfort as they recover from the effects of the calamity.
- c. Pray for the Nations
 - Pray for the Lord to send more missionaries to the nations who have not yet heard about God's gift of undeserved grace.

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- Pray for God to protect, empower and provide for all of our missionaries, especially those who are being persecuted.
 - Pray to the Lord that He will remember His covenant to Israel and redeem the Jewish people's heart back to Jesus.
- d. Pray to God that all his followers will remember His faithfulness and give Him thanks, praise and glory.

Instructions to the Dgroup Leader:

1. Assign a member to prepare the elements:
 - a. Any one whole piece of cracker or bread (preferably without yeast).
 - b. Grape juice -- one big cup or bottle and many small cups (one for each member).
2. Announce the celebration of the Lord's Supper.
3. Lead the short devotion below.*
4. Thank God the Father for sending His Son as a sacrifice for our sins. Break the cracker or bread and say, "This reminds us of Jesus' body which was broken for us." Distribute the pieces and eat.
5. Pour the grape juice into the cups and say, "This reminds us of Jesus' blood which was shed for us." Distribute the cups and drink.
6. Close in prayer.

Please encourage all your members to individually pray and fast once a week (fasting one meal per week will do). You can share your answered prayers on the following month's prayer meeting.

*Short Devotion

1. Read the verses below with your Dgroup members, emphasizing on the highlighted words.

Genesis 3:21-22 ***"The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. And the LORD GOD said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever."*** (NIV)

Hebrews 9:22 ***"In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."*** (NIV)
2. Explain the following points to your members:
 - a. God is sovereign. He possesses all power and dominion over heaven and earth. With His powerful hand, He controls every circumstance and is able to do whatever He wills.
 - b. Adam and Eve sinned by eating the forbidden fruit, thus, God denied them of eternal life. (G. v.22)
 - c. The payment for sin is death. Therefore, a sacrifice must be made to atone for sin. (Heb. v. 22)
 - d. God provided the first sacrifice when He slayed an animal and clothed Adam and Eve with it's skin. (G. v.21) God's sovereignty allows Him to graciously give salvation to anyone He chooses.
 - e. It was once again by God's sovereign grace that He provided the final and perfect sacrifice, Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who took away the sins of the world once and for all.
 - f. We personally receive Christ's gift of salvation through the Lord's Supper. God chose us out of His free own will, not because of our own merit. Since God, in His sovereignty, has chosen us, we must be faithful stewards and abide in Him.
3. Ask them to reflect on these. (2 minutes)
 - a. As you celebrate the Lord's Supper, what attitude should you have knowing that God sovereignly and graciously chose to offer you eternal life?
 - b. Aware of God's sovereignty, how can you become faithful stewards of Christ?

All Dgroups are encouraged to devote their first meeting of the month to a time of prayer and commemoration of the Lord's Supper.