

# Intergenerational Communion

*Written by Simon Story for the Trinity Alberton Uniting Church in SA*

## *Setting the scene*

Kids, have you even noticed that from time to time we share a small meal in church with bread and juice? Can anyone tell me what this meal is usually called?

Can anyone tell me why we share this meal? Adults?

To get the full story of what this meal is all about we need to go way, way back. All the way back to Jesus 'time. There was a special meal that Jesus shared with his followers. It was the very last meal he got to have with them before he died, so it was very special indeed.

During this meal, Jesus said and did some things that probably didn't really make sense to his followers at the time. But we understand because we know the story.

During the meal, he took bread, gave thanks to God for it, and broke it in two, just like this. (*Lift and break bread*) And then he said "Take this bread and eat it. This bread symbolises my body which has been broken for you. Do this to remember me." Jesus was saying this because when his body was broken, like we just broke the bread, it was all so that we could have an everlasting relationship with Him.

So when we eat this bread, we remember the decision Jesus made to give his life for us as a sacrifice so that we could call him friend.

Let's thank God for this.

## *Pray*

Thanks, God, for sending your Son Jesus to teach us how to live, and for the great love you have for us that led Jesus all the way to a cross so that we could be your friend. Amen

Later, in that same meal long ago, Jesus took a cup, (*Lift the cup*) which probably didn't look quite like this one, and he said thanks to God again. Then he told his followers to drink from the cup, which was a reminder of a new covenant or agreement that God was making with all people, where our mistakes would be forgiven, through his death. Whenever we drink this juice, Jesus asks us to remember this new agreement that frees each of us to be in a direct and personal relationship with God.

Let's thank God for this too.

## *Pray*

Thanks God that because of Jesus, we can each be your friend, getting to know you and talk to you as we go through this journey of life. Thank you than even when we make mistakes, you always love us and invite us to live like you taught us. Amen

This is super special, and worth remembering and celebrating!

And so we remember and we celebrate now, the personal relationship we can have with God through the live, death and resurrection of Jesus.

*Distribution*

As I bring the bread around, can one person please break it and share it with the rest of the table, remembering God's love for you through Jesus.

*(Distribution bread roll to each table)*

And as you receive the juice, please wait to drink it and we will all drink together, remembering that we are one family, united through the new agreement that was made possible because of Jesus.

*(Distribute juice to each table)*

*Pray*

Loving Father, thank you for giving us this meal as a tool to remember your incredible love for us through. Thank you for sending Jesus to live and die so that we could be friends with you. And thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to live inside each of us to bring your wisdom, comfort and peace. In your name we pray, Amen