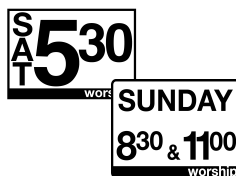


We are celebrating communion in our worship hours this weekend. Please use this page to help you and your children be prepared.



Message Outline
See Page 2

Helping Our Children Understand the Significance of Communion



The requirement for receiving the elements in our remembrance of the Lord's Supper (Communion) is that one has placed his/her trust in Jesus Christ as the only way to find God's forgiveness of sins. Bloomingdale Church does not require church membership in our congregation to participate in communion, recognizing that people from many churches honor the Gospel as well. We do ask that parents give their children clear direction as to their participation. FYI: The children have a catechism class on communion in 5th & 6th grade Sunday School.

The Apostle Paul gives clear instructions that we follow when we take communion.

1 Corinthians 11:23-29 The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." [25] In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." [26] For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. [27] Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. [28] A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. [29] For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.

Questions to ask our children: *(They should be able to answer these questions in order to be ready to participate in communion.)*

How did communion get started?

What are the two key elements of communion?

What do they symbolize?

The bread -

The cup -

What does it mean when we say that these elements are "symbolic"?

What are we supposed to be remembering when we take communion? *(See 11:24-25.)*

When is a child ready to start taking communion?

Who should not take communion?

What are we supposed to do to be ready to take communion? *(See 11:28.)*



When The Opposite Way Is The Right Way

☐ **The Text: John 3:22-30** *(Page #1648 in the sanctuary Bible)*

☐ **The Context:** Jesus' teaching and serving ministry has begun and crowds of people are gathering regularly to hear his unique challenges. John the Baptist, Christ's forerunner, has also had public notoriety, teaching the people to seek God honestly by repenting of their sins. *(Don't be confused; this is not the same John who is the apostle and writer of the Gospel of John.)*

☐ **Text Notes:**

John	
	<p>Matthew 11:11 (Jesus) "I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist."</p>

Matthew 20:26 Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.

John 3:23 Aenon near Salim...

A Problem?

3:26 They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan--the one you testified about--well, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him."

The Right Response

3:27 To this John replied, "A man can receive only what is given him from heaven. [28] You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Christ but am sent ahead of him.'



The Right Response *(continued)*

3:29 The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. [30] He must become greater; I must become less.

The attending friend of the bridegroom =

According to Jewish tradition, this attending family friend was the liaison between the bride and the bridegroom, arranged the details of the wedding and presided over the marriage feast.

1

3:29 "...And is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice."

J-
O-
Y-

2

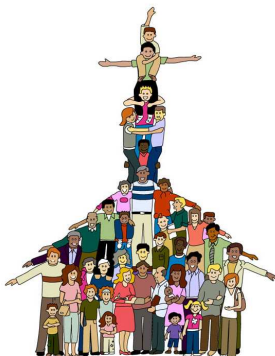
3:30 "He must become greater; I must become less."

A Sinner's Prayer
Lord, I am a sinner who has offended you. Please forgive me. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for my sins and I place my trust in Christ's sacrifice as the only way to be right with you. Thank you for loving me and coming into my heart. In Jesus' name, Amen.

A Surrender Prayer
Lord, I want to have the joy of letting Christ be first in my life and not allowing my self-will to dominate. Help me to put Jesus first, other's second, and myself last in managing the time, talent and treasure you have given me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

□ Practical Application:
What does living out "3:30" look like today?

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→ See the next page for this week's TAP.

→ For Audio Messages...

+Messages on CD Free CD's are available in the lobby the following weekend.

+Listen online Go to: www.bloomingdalechurch.org. Click on the "Sermon Messages" tab.

+Podcast If you have a portable media player (iPod, zune, etc.) and/or use iTunes or a RSS feed reader (iGoogle, Google Reader, My Yahoo), you can automatically update on our latest audio content. Go to www.bloomingdalechurch.org/media for the step by step way to get connected. (It is all free.) Contact Daniel Riemenschneider at danielr@bloomingdalechurch.org if you need more help.

NOTE: The assigned passages of Scripture are intentionally short so that they can be read slowly and with unhurried reflection.

TAP

T - **key Truths** = Summary thoughts, principles to live by, observations to remember.
A - **practical Application** = How should I respond? What action can I take?
P - **my Prayer response** = My expression to God from what I am reading/thinking.

Date: Mon. July 5	John 3:1-15
T ^{KEY} TRUTHS	
A ^{PRACTICAL} APPLICATION	
P ^{MY} PRAYER <small>RESPONSE</small>	

Date: Tue. July 6	John 3:16-21
T ^{KEY} TRUTHS	
A ^{PRACTICAL} APPLICATION	
P ^{MY} PRAYER <small>RESPONSE</small>	

Date: Wed. July 7	John 3:22-30
T ^{KEY} TRUTHS	
A ^{PRACTICAL} APPLICATION	
P ^{MY} PRAYER <small>RESPONSE</small>	

Date: Thur. July 8	Matthew 11:1-19 (more of the story of John the Baptist)
T ^{KEY} TRUTHS	
A ^{PRACTICAL} APPLICATION	
P ^{MY} PRAYER <small>RESPONSE</small>	

Date: Fri. July 9	John 3:31-36
T ^{KEY} TRUTHS	
A ^{PRACTICAL} APPLICATION	
P ^{MY} PRAYER <small>RESPONSE</small>	