

Activity Instructions: Break children into small groups and provide one set of cards for each small group. At each table, spread cards out and allow each child to choose the card(s) that describes how he/she feels about Sunday and discuss with the group. When the child is finished, place cards back on the table and move on to the next child, until every child has had a chance to share.

Sunday means...

a meal with everyone.

Sunday means...

spending time with family.

Sunday means...

a day to play and relax.

Sunday means...

the Lord's Day.

Sunday means...

a day just for me!

Sunday means...

a break from the rest of the week.

Sunday means...

(Something else; explain.)



Reader's Theater: The True Bread from Heaven

This Reader's Theater has two parts, read by two catechists/volunteers.

Philip: Hi James—it's good to see you! I didn't expect to find you here. Where are you going?

James: Philip! Hello my friend. I'm on my way back to Jerusalem.

Philip: I'm headed there for a few days, too! In fact, someone pointed out a path along this road that leads to a nice inn, so I'm going there for dinner. I hear their restaurant serves excellent fish and fresh bread. It's a bit of a walk; do you want to join me?

James: Why not!

[Later that afternoon]

James: How much further is it? I'm getting hungry. Where's this inn?

Philip: Be patient! Don't be like the Israelites in the desert who complained to Moses and Aaron.

James: Yes, but our merciful Lord took pity on those complainers. He gave them manna to eat!

Philip: Oh yes, the bread from heaven that appeared every morning like a thin crust on the desert floor. They say it tasted delicious!

James: Good thing, because they ate it for forty years, when wandering in the wilderness. That was the bread of the Old Covenant.

Philip: That reminds me of another miracle. James, remember the day Jesus fed 5,000 men?

James: Yes, I remember! Jesus said to us: "Give them something to eat yourself." Luckily, Andrew spotted that young boy with five

loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus blessed and multiplied the loaves and fishes. At the end of the picnic, there were twelve baskets of leftovers!

Philip: Everyone was full. The crowd had found their new "Moses" to feed them.

James: Yes, and then we couldn't get the crowd to stop following us after that miracle.

Philip: So Jesus said to them, "It wasn't Moses who gave you the bread from heaven; it's my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven." Moses was God's instrument, his spokesman, not a miracle-worker on his own. But the crowd just kept asking for this bread that Jesus was talking about.

James: And Jesus' answer blew them away! He said, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

Philip: None of us could really understand what he was saying.

James: And the Jewish leaders in the synagogue were so angry!

Philip: I remember. Jesus even said: "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink." This was unbelievable, even to all of us disciples!

James: Many of our followers left Jesus at that point.

Philip: Yes, but the twelve of us stayed.

James: And then there was that special meal—our Last Supper with Jesus.

Philip: Yes, we all arrived in Jerusalem for the Feast of Unleavened Bread, celebrating the first Passover.

James: Oh that makes me think of all the tasty foods from Passover...roasted lamb, unleavened bread...my mouth is watering. How much further is the inn?

Philip: We're getting closer. But James, above all, we remember what happened to the bread and the wine during this last meal with Jesus! Forget the rest of the menu!

James: Don't worry; I remember. During the meal, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to us, saying, "Take it; this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to us, and we all drank from it.

Philip: Yes, and he said, "This is my blood of the covenant, which will be poured out for many." Jesus' words gave meaning to his sacrifice on the cross—not only to us, his disciples, but to everyone.

James: And all those who believe in him and eat the bread of this New Covenant will have eternal life.

Philip: Luke tells us that Jesus said: "Do this in memory of me." Since then, we have celebrated the Lord's Supper in memory of him.

James: In his memory, we break bread together. He is truly present every time we celebrate this special meal.

Philip: We are in communion with his love.

James: What do you mean by the word "communion"?

Philip: Our brother Paul wrote: "Is not the bread we break communion with the body of Christ?"

James: Oh, I see what you mean! We are united to Christ but also to one another. Jesus gives himself to us to strengthen us and to bring us together.

Philip: Yes, we are invited by Christ to become one with him through the gift of his Body and Blood!

Group Discussion or Journal Writing Prompt:

During this conversation between Philip and James, you heard passages from the Bible that spoke of the bread of the Old Covenant and the bread of the New Covenant:

- Through Moses, God fed the Israelites with manna, the bread of the Old Covenant. **(Exodus 16:3-31)**
- Jesus blessed and multiplied the loaves and fish by Lake Tiberias. **(John 6:1-15)**
- Jesus offered himself as a sacrifice to save humankind from sin and death. **(John 6:48-58)**
- The Last Supper, which was Jesus' last meal before his Passion, is the institution of the Eucharist. **(Mark 14:12-31)**
- When we share in the gift of Jesus' Body and Blood, we form one body united to Christ. **(1 Corinthians 10:16-17)**

Communion means "come" into "union." What did you discover about Communion from Philip and James' conversation?

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When I go to Mass, I see...

friends happy to gather.

When I go to Mass, I see...

faithful members of the community.

When I go to Mass, I see...

more older people than younger people.

When I go to Mass, I see...

a choir, a cantor, and musicians.

When I go to Mass, I see...

people who come to encounter Christ.

When I go to Mass, I see...

Catholic families.

When I go to Mass, I see...

people going through the motions.

When I go to Mass, I see...

people giving an hour to God.

When I go to Mass, I see...

(Something else; explain.)

