

## COMMUNION TALKS

*You've been asked to lead the Lord's Supper. Please read over the guidelines established by the North River leadership team.*

### INTRO

- Please plan to attend a meeting of all serving on stage. 9:40, or 20 minutes before service start time, front right meeting room.
- Be sure to speak directly into the microphone. Don't worry if it's too loud (the sound tech crew can lower the level); but if you move away from the mic more than a few inches, it may be difficult for many in the audience to hear you.
- Don't bring others up on the stage (e.g. wife or family members) unless this has already been discussed. (No surprises.)

### STONE

- Not too solemn, yet not flippant.
- Personal, but not self-centered (2 Corinthians 4:5).

### EXPLANATION

- Explain what bread and wine signify. You can do this in your talk, or even in the prayer that follows.
- If possible, connect your talk with the sermon topic. This also streamlines the service.

### CONTENT

- Make sure to read the Bible.
- Yet avoid extended readings, unless this takes the place of your "talk."
- Any personal sharing should be directly related to the communion theme and point. For instance, please don't share a personal story for 4 minutes and throw in 30 seconds about the Cross.
- The communion is a vital part of the weekly Sunday service. Try to think of the church service as a whole.
- With this in mind, consider a tie-in to the sermon or theme of the day (if any), so that you aren't creating a diversion or distraction.

### CLARITY

- The message should clearly point to the Cross. Eliminate extraneous material, however interesting it may be.
- The message should be concise. You should be able to express it in a single sentence. (Having a clear point prevents rambling.)
- No multiple "points," but rather one communion thought.

### SENSITIVITY

- Be sensitive to the audience. Young children are present, so share nothing that could be upsetting to them.
- Don't share about suicides, violence, physical abuse, nudity, sexual abuse or anything of a sexual nature.
- Take special care if you're sharing personal details.
- In general, don't talk about others without their permission.

### APPROACHES

- There are many ways to share a communion thought. Since the Bible doesn't tell us how to do this, we are free to be creative.
- You might explore the words of the song before communion. Or read a scripture (*without* commentary). Or use parts of the Old Testament that point to the incarnation / the atonement. Or offer an extended prayer (without a separate "talk").
- Since every book of the Bible points to the atoning sacrifice of Christ, there's no need to be trapped in 1 Cor 11!

### PRAYER BEFORE BREAD & WINE

- Take your time.
- Try to avoid "Father-God" prayers (where the divine names are used like punctuation marks). It may help to use notes.
- Consider the simplicity and content of the prayers one finds in the epistles and the Psalms or even the Lord's Prayer.
- Our custom is to pray for the bread and the wine in a single prayer (as opposed to two separate prayers).

### LENGTH

- Aim for a talk 4-5 minutes in length, unless you have been asked to extend.
- Get to the point. *Practice*. Time yourself.

### SUBMISSION

- Please submit your communion *theme* and *point* to [Jeff Hickman](#) four days before you speak (by Wednesday). If the theme or point is fuzzy, you will be asked to clarify. You will normally be asked to speak 1-4 weeks in advance.
- The leadership team will be available to assist with ideas, input or feedback...

Finally, *thank you* for your willingness to share in this way.