



## Should My Child Take Communion?

### What to Look For

In the Bible, there is no age of accountability or prescribed requirement. The only prerequisite is that the participant be a follower of Jesus Christ.

So, when it comes to children, what is important and what must be determined by each parent for their own children is:

- Do they have an age-appropriate understanding of what Jesus did on the cross and why?
- Have they given a convincing profession of faith in Jesus?
- Are they showing fruit and evidence of conversion through obedience to and love for Jesus?
- Do they understand and can they articulate the significance of communion?

### Don't Rush It

I would suggest to never rush communion. It's not magical so taking it sooner than later will not keep your kids from sin or earn them extra favor with God. The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of remembrance and requires proper mental understanding and meaningful spiritual reflection to hold significance. Waiting and holding off for understanding, maturity, significance, anticipation and meaningful memories can be a good thing for your child.

### When the Time is Right

When your wisdom and discernment from the Holy Spirit tells you that the time is right and your child is ready to participate in communion, I recommend setting up a conversation that covers the following topics:

- **What is Communion?**

Make sure they understand what communion is and what communion isn't. I recommend starting with Jesus' institution of the Lord's Supper in Luke 22. Talk about what Jesus was teaching when He spoke to His disciples and how we continue to remember Jesus broken body and shed blood. Be sure to explain that what we are doing is symbolic and not literal. We are not literally drinking Jesus' blood and eating His body. Communion is not magical.

- **Why Do We Take Communion?**

Teach your child that we take communion because Jesus instructed us to and as a way of remembering and celebrating what He did for us. 1 Corinthians 11:26 tells us that as often as we eat of the bread and drink the cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes again.

- **How Do We Take Communion?**

Coach your child through the logistics and the spirit of taking communion. Communion is done differently at every church, so coach them on the proper way to receive and the proper time to partake of the bread and juice. Also, help and encourage them to be in the right mindset. 1 Corinthians 11 gives personal instructions for taking communion and tells a believer to "examine himself" before eating and drinking.

The decision for when your child begins to take communication is ultimately yours and yours alone. Be prayerful about it. No one knows your child better than you, and when it comes to a decision like this, trust the Lord's guidance and your discernment as a parent.