

ENCOURAGEMENT

When your children are here, the church is filled with a joyful noise. When your children are here, the Body of Christ is more fully present. When your children are here, we are reminded that faith is not a solo enterprise but a coming together of a community of worship, where all are welcome, where we share in Communion together.

We have Kids Bulletins to help your child follow along with the service and to help you engage with them to help them understand what is happening and being said in the service.

As well, if you would feel more comfortable, we have our Cardo Café seating area where you can sit with your child and still hear the service.

If you would like more information, have questions or would like to provide feedback on our Family Communion Service, please contact any of our Pastors below at 403.256.4922:

- Jesus Salazar- Pastor of Children's Ministries
- Sam Seifert- Pastor of Family Ministries
- James Wheeler- Pastor of Adult Ministries



20200 Walden Blvd SE
Calgary, AB T2X 0N4
Phone: 403-256-4922 Fax: 403-254-9553

FAMILY COMMUNION GUIDE



PARENTS

Parents, you are the primary spiritual leaders of your children. One of the ways we want to partner with you is by providing an opportunity for you to experience Communion with your children in a weekend worship service.

Please use this guide to help lead your children through a Communion service.

LUKE 22:19-20 (ESV)

One of the places we learn about Communion is Luke 22:19-20 (ESV)

¹⁹ And he (Jesus) took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰ And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

1

Take some time at a family meal to discuss the importance of food in your family life. Explain that you regularly gather for meals not only to eat,

but to share your day and enjoy the company of each other. Similarly, the church regularly gathers as a family on Communion weekends to receive a meal together. This meal does not fill us up physically but instead nourishes us spiritually. Just as bread and juice feed our bodies, the bread and juice of Communion feed our hearts. In addition to this, Communion is a time to remember what Jesus has done for us and is still doing for us through his sacrifice on the cross.

2

At Southview, we believe a child is ready to partake of Communion when they have: a) decided to follow and trust in Jesus; and b) have some understanding of what Communion means (*as laid out in point 1*).

3

During our church service, if a child is not ready to partake or doesn't understand what is going on, that is okay. Encourage your child to

simply observe and listen to what is taking place. Later on, offer further explanation of what is happening and why.

4

As the bread is being passed remind your child that this bread is a symbol of Jesus' body broken to demonstrate his love for us. Please let your child know to choose a piece that is close to them at the top of the plate. If they are younger, it would be best if you hold the plate and offer the bread to them. Let them know that we wait to eat the bread until we are reminded, "the body of Christ was broken for you."

As the cups of juice are passed remind your child that the juice is a symbol of Jesus' blood that was shed for the forgiveness of our sins. Again, let your child know to take a cup that is close to them. This tray can be too bulky and awkward for smaller children to handle, so offer to hold it for them as they take a cup. If you are unsure of their ability, you can take a cup and hold it for them until it is time to partake. Let them know to wait to drink until we are reminded, "the blood of Christ was poured out for you."