

CHILDREN AT THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe that children are part of the covenant community and therefore should be active participants in sharing in the Lord's Supper. Scripture gives us guidelines on how we are to prepare for and participate in the Lord's Supper. The Christian Reformed Churches of Australia have adopted the following guidelines to help us celebrate the Lord's Supper with our children in a way that honours the Lord. These guidelines will help parents as they determine whether their children should join in celebrating the Lord's Supper.

Guidelines

1. Children must profess faith in Jesus and be baptized.
2. There must be age-appropriate evidence of this faith being lived out.
3. Children must understand that the bread represents Jesus' body and that the wine/juice represents his blood.
4. They need to understand that Jesus died for them - giving his body and blood - to save them from their sin.
5. They must understand that they are part of a church family, whom they are to love and serve.

To help parents, we have drafted the following suggested questions that we would like parents to discuss with their children before celebrating the Lord's Supper. Remember that the goal is not that your children will get the answers right. It is that they understand who Jesus is and what he did for them on the cross. They also need to be able to "discern the body" (1 Cor 11:29). This has a dual meaning - they are to understand that the bread and the wine/juice represent Jesus' body and blood given for us on the cross and they are to understand that the church is the body of Christ and that being part of the body of Christ comes with benefits and responsibilities.

We expect that children will mature in their knowledge and love for the Lord over time and so parents need to keep this in mind.

Finally, if you have any questions, or would like to discuss this further, please contact our pastor or see another member of session.

Suggested questions

Who is Jesus to you?
What did Jesus come to do?
What does Jesus' death on the cross mean to you?

What does it mean to you to love Jesus?
How does being a follower of Jesus change the way you live?
How do you think you are different because you believe in Jesus?

When we share the Lord's Supper, what does the bread represent/mean to you?
And what about the wine?

When we share this meal together, it also reminds us that we are part of the church family.

Do you feel like you are part of the church?

What is one way you can love or serve the church this week?