

## *Time Audit Chronicles: The Last Supper – The Institution of Communion*

(Matthew 26:26-29)

### Prologue: The Power of the Table

The Presswood family sat together at the dinner table, enjoying a cozy meal of soup and bread. Alice, her favorite stuffed animal Mr. Fluffernutter tucked under her arm, was busy setting the table for a pretend “banquet,” carefully arranging the plates and making sure everyone had a cup of water.

“Daddy,” Ariel asked, looking up from her bowl, “why do we take communion at church? What’s the meaning behind it?”

Ryan smiled, his eyes thoughtful. “Communion is a way for us to remember what Jesus did for us. It’s not just a ritual—it’s a way to reflect on His sacrifice and share in the unity that comes from His death and resurrection. Jesus started this tradition at the Last Supper with His disciples, and it’s been passed down through the church ever since.”

Ariel’s eyes widened. “Was the Last Supper like a big dinner party?”

Ryan chuckled. “It was a special meal—much like a final gathering with close friends before a big event. But it was also the moment when Jesus shared with His disciples the deep meaning of His upcoming death and what it would mean for them and for the world.”

Alice, curious, looked up. “Did they have soup and bread like us?”

Ryan laughed. “Well, they definitely had bread, and they shared wine. And just like us, they gathered to remember something very important.”

### **The Covenant and Promise**

Ryan looked at Ariel and Alice, his expression thoughtful. “You know, the covenant of communion isn’t just a historical event—it’s a living promise. It means that Jesus’ love and sacrifice weren’t just for that moment, but for every moment of our lives.”

Ariel nodded slowly. “So it’s not just something that happened a long time ago... it’s something that’s still important today?”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “When Jesus gave His body and blood, He promised to be with us always. That means, even when things get tough, we can hold onto that promise. It’s like knowing that we’re never alone, no matter what happens.”

Alice, her eyes wide, chimed in, “Like when I’m scared at night and I hug Mr. Fluffernutter?”

Ryan smiled. “Yes, just like that. Jesus is always there, ready to comfort us and remind us of His love. Communion is a way for us to remember that promise, to know that His sacrifice is something we can rely on every day.”

Ariel’s eyes brightened. “So when we take communion, we’re saying that we trust Jesus to be with us, now and in the future?”

“That’s right,” Ryan said. “It’s a way to connect with Him, to remember His love, and to trust that He’ll keep His promise to us. And that promise gives us hope—hope that no matter what we face, Jesus has already made a way for us.”

Alice grinned. “So communion is like a special promise we get to remember all the time!”

Ryan nodded. “Yes, it’s a living promise. One that reminds us we’re loved, forgiven, and never alone.” Let’s use the Time Audit Machine to go back and witness the Last Supper, where Jesus first introduced the practice of communion.”

The Journey Begins: The Upper Room

The Time Audit Machine hummed, and the Presswood family was whisked away.

“Destination: Jerusalem, 30-33 CE. Objective: witness the Last Supper, where Jesus institutes the practice of communion.”

With a flash of light, they found themselves inside a dimly lit upper room, with a low table set for a meal. The disciples were gathered around, and Jesus was sitting in the middle, preparing to share His final meal with them before His arrest. The atmosphere was somber yet intimate.

“There they are,” Ryan said, pointing. “This is the moment when Jesus begins to prepare His disciples for what’s about to happen.”

The Last Supper: Jesus Breaks the Bread and Shares the Cup (Matthew 26:26-29)

As the meal began, Jesus took the bread in His hands. The disciples were silent, watching Him closely. He broke the bread and said:

“Take, eat; this is My body.” (Matthew 26:26)

Ariel blinked, her mind racing. “His body? Why did He say the bread was His body?”

Ryan explained: “Jesus was using the bread as a symbol. Just as we eat bread to nourish our bodies, Jesus was about to give His own body for the nourishment of our souls. The bread and cup also symbolize the renewal of our relationship with God. Every time we take communion, it’s like we’re starting fresh with Him, receiving forgiveness and committing ourselves to live in a way that honors Him.”

Ariel nodded thoughtfully. “It’s like when I mess up and you forgive me, Daddy. I get a clean slate.”

Ryan smiled. “Exactly, Ariel. Jesus gives us a clean slate too. Communion is about forgiveness and renewal, helping us to grow closer to God each day.” His body would be broken on the cross for us, and by taking the bread, we remember that sacrifice.”

The Cup of the New Covenant (Matthew 26:27-28)

Jesus then took the cup of wine, which was a common part of their meal, and said:

“Drink ye all of it; For this is My blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.” (Matthew 26:27-28)

Alice looked at the cup in her hands, wide-eyed. “His blood?”

“Yes,” Ryan said softly. “The wine represents Jesus’ blood. Just as blood gives life to our bodies, Jesus’ blood would be poured out on the cross to give us eternal life. Through His sacrifice, our sins can be forgiven, and we can be made right with God.”

Ariel’s pen hovered over her notebook. “So, communion is about remembering Jesus’ sacrifice for us?”

“That’s exactly right,” Ryan said. “It’s a way of connecting with Jesus and acknowledging what He did for us. When we take the bread and the cup, we remember that His body was broken and His blood was shed for our forgiveness.”

Jesus’ Promise: The Future Kingdom (Matthew 26:29)

Jesus continued, giving His disciples a promise about the future:

“But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.” (Matthew 26:29)

Ariel’s eyes sparkled. “He’s saying He’ll share this meal with us again someday?”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Jesus was looking ahead to the time when He would return in glory and establish His kingdom. At that time, He will drink the wine again with His followers, and we’ll celebrate with Him in His kingdom forever.”

The Significance of Communion

As the meal continued, Ryan turned to Ariel and Alice. “This meal is deeply significant. When we take communion, we’re not just remembering the past—we’re connecting to the future. We look back at what Jesus did for us on the cross, and we look forward to the day when He’ll return to set all things right. Communion is a reminder of the covenant Jesus made with us, one that can never be broken.”

Ariel nodded. “It’s like a promise we hold onto, both for now and for the future.”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “It’s a sacred promise that Jesus made to His followers, one that offers forgiveness, eternal life, and the hope of a future reunion with Him.”

The Journey Back: Living in the Promise

Back in the garage, the Time Audit Machine powered down, leaving the family deep in reflection. Ariel, Alice, and Ryan each sat quietly, letting the meaning of communion linger in their hearts.

Ariel flipped through her notes, her brow furrowed thoughtfully. “It’s amazing how something so simple—bread and wine—can mean so much,” she whispered. “It’s not just about remembering; it’s about feeling connected to Jesus in the here and now.”

**A Conversation with Mr. Fluffernutter**

Alice hugged Mr. Fluffernutter tightly. “Mr. Fluffernutter, do you know what communion is?” she asked, her eyes wide with curiosity.

She made the stuffed animal nod, then continued, “It’s when we remember Jesus’ love for us. It’s like when you share your favorite cookie with a friend—it means you love them.”

Mr. Fluffernutter seemed to hesitate, and Alice giggled. “Oh, you’re wondering why we use bread and juice? Well, that’s because Jesus used those things at a very special dinner with His friends. The bread is like His body, and the juice is like His blood. It sounds a little funny, but it means He gave everything for us.”

Ariel listened, smiling. “Alice, you’re really good at explaining things in a simple way. Communion is about Jesus sharing everything He had with us, because He loves us.”

Ryan nodded, his eyes distant as he considered the promise of the future kingdom. “The thought of sitting at a table with Jesus again someday... it fills me with hope. It’s like a reminder that no matter what we face, there’s something beautiful waiting for us.”

Alice, meanwhile, was busy arranging her stuffed animals at the small table. She glanced up, her eyes bright. “So, when we take communion, it’s like we’re already part of that big feast, right, Daddy?”

Ryan smiled warmly. “Exactly, Alice. Every time we share communion, we’re getting a glimpse of that future meal—a reminder of the love Jesus has for us and the promise that we’ll be with Him again.”

The room fell into a comfortable silence, each of them holding onto the significance of the meal they had just witnessed. Communion was more than a ritual—it was a promise of love, forgiveness, and an everlasting connection to Jesus.

#### Alice's Imagination: The Grand Feast

Alice carefully arranged her stuffed animals in a circle around the small table. She gave each of them a tiny cup and a piece of bread. “Alright, everyone!” she announced, her eyes gleaming with excitement. “This is the Last Supper, but it’s also the Grand Feast of the Kingdom! Today, we’re not just eating bread—we’re having the best feast ever!”

She lifted a cup of juice high in the air. “Mr. Fluffernutter, you’re in charge of the royal toast! And you, Sir Hoppy,” she pointed to a stuffed rabbit, “you make sure everyone has enough bread. No one goes hungry in the kingdom!”

Ariel looked over, smiling at Alice’s creativity. “What kind of feast are you imagining, Alice?”

Alice beamed. “A huge one, with everyone from all over the kingdom! There are cakes as tall as trees, and everyone gets their favorite kind of juice. And Jesus is right there, sitting at the head of the table, telling stories and laughing with everyone.”

Ryan knelt down beside Alice, watching her as she handed Mr. Fluffernutter a piece of bread. “And what does Jesus say at this grand feast?” he asked.

Alice paused, her eyes wide with thought. “He says... ‘Everyone is welcome, and everyone is loved.’” She looked up at Ryan. “Isn’t that what communion is about, Daddy? Making sure everyone knows they’re loved?”

Ryan smiled warmly. “That’s exactly right, sweetheart. Communion is a way to remember Jesus’ love for us, and the big feast He promised us someday. You’ve turned it into something very special.”

Ariel nodded, her eyes thoughtful. “Alice, I think your imagination helps us understand how joyful communion is supposed to be. It’s not just serious—it’s also about celebrating the love Jesus has for all of us.”

Alice grinned, holding up her cup. “To Jesus! And to everyone being happy forever!”

Ryan raised an imaginary cup. “To Jesus,” he echoed, “and to His amazing love that we get to share, now and forever.”

“Jesus gave us something really special in communion,” Ariel said thoughtfully. “It’s not just about the bread and the wine—it’s about remembering what He did for us and living in the hope of His return.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Communion is a way of staying connected to Jesus, remembering His sacrifice, and looking forward to the day when we’ll be with Him again in His kingdom.”

Alice looked up. “So, when we take communion, we’re sharing a meal with Jesus?”

Ryan smiled. “In a way, yes. We’re participating in a moment that connects us to the past, the present, and the future. And every time we take the bread and the cup, we’re saying ‘thank you’ to Jesus for what He did for us on the cross and looking forward to the great feast we’ll share with Him someday.”

Reflection: A New Covenant of Love and Forgiveness

That evening, Ariel read aloud from Matthew 26:

“‘For this is My blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.’”

The family sat quietly, reflecting on the deep meaning of Jesus’ words.

“Jesus didn’t just give us a ritual,” Ryan said. “He gave us a promise. When we take communion, we remember that we are forgiven because of His sacrifice. We remember that He loves us so much that He was willing to die for us, and we look forward to the day when we’ll be with Him in His kingdom.”

### **Forgiveness and Renewal**

Ryan looked at Ariel and Alice, his voice softening. “You know, the bread and cup symbolize not only forgiveness but also the renewal of our relationship with God. Every time we take communion, it’s like we’re starting fresh with Him.”

Ariel nodded. “It’s like when I mess up and you forgive me, Daddy. I get a clean slate.”

Ryan smiled. “Exactly, Ariel. Jesus gives us a clean slate, too. Communion is about that forgiveness and about renewing our commitment to live the way He wants us to.”

Alice hugged Mr. Fluffernutter tightly. “I think communion is a way to share love with Jesus.” “I think communion is a way to share love with Jesus.”

“And to remember how much He loves us,” Ryan said with a smile.

Takeaway: Remembering Jesus’ Sacrifice

The institution of communion during the Last Supper, as recorded in Matthew 26:26-29, is a powerful reminder of Jesus' great love for us. Through the bread and the cup, we remember His body broken for us and His blood shed for the forgiveness of our sins. Communion is not just a ritual—it's a means of staying connected to Jesus, celebrating His sacrifice, and looking forward to the hope of His return. As we share in this sacred meal, we honor the new covenant He established with His followers, a covenant of grace, forgiveness, and eternal life.