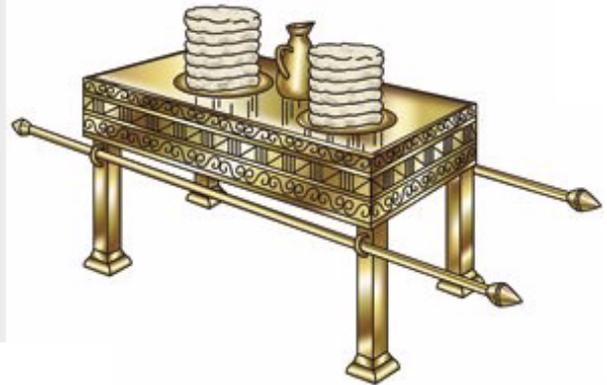


COMMUNION

Being Made Whole

In continuing to explore worship through learning about the tabernacle, at the Table of Showbread is a connection to communion. In our worship services, communion is about remembering and celebrating how God rescues His people through sending Jesus to sacrifice Himself for our sins. When we look a little deeper, it is also about spending time "communing" with God.



At the Table of Showbread, the priest would eat from the bread on the table and take time to remember how God saved His people over and over again. The priest would have remembered how God provided bread, called manna, to His people in the desert after He had saved them from slavery in Egypt. (Exodus 16)

When we spend time with God, He wants us to remember How he has saved us and provided for us, too. In communion with Him, we give him our sins and in return we receive not only forgiveness, but an invitation to be near to Him and to live life full and complete. Whole.

Our sin for life with God.

It hardly seems fair. God gives so much more than we could ever give to Him. Talk about this together as a family.

There's an amazing story in the Bible where a child gives something to Jesus and in return, Jesus does something miraculous! It's in the Bible in John 6. Read it together and talk about what happened:

- What did the boy give to Jesus?
- What did Jesus give?

How would you feel if you went to the store one day with an old, dirty, worn-out pair of shoes on your feet and the store owner gave you a brand new pair in exchange for your old ones? Or maybe you wore an old, stained, torn dress and received a bright, sparkly new one for the one you were wearing? Would that be a fair trade?

On the cross Jesus died for our sins. He takes our sins and He gives us a clean heart. He gives us friendship with Him. It's not a fair trade.

But without what Jesus did, we're not whole or complete. Some people say it's like having a whole in your heart - a God-sized whole that only He can fill.

Have communion together as a family. You can read in Mark 14:22-26 where Jesus taught His followers to remember Him in this way.

Then, have each one share their favorite celebration as a family. It could be a birthday, a holiday, or another special day. What is your favorite part of the celebration?

Jesus wanted communion to be that kind of celebration for us. We celebrate being made whole, having Jesus in our hearts and being able to be in God's presence all the time!

Isaiah 53:5

But he was pierced for our rebellion,
crushed for our sins.
He was beaten so we could be whole.
He was whipped so we
could be healed.



Finishing the Puzzle

Here is an activity to do as a family:

Choose a puzzle you can put together as a family. Before you start, secretly remove one piece of the puzzle and keep it hidden while you work on the puzzle together. (You might hide it in a Bible or in a child's Bible story book.)

When you come to the end of the puzzle and discover a piece is missing, go on a hunt for the missing puzzle piece. Gather back together and ask where everyone looked for the missing puzzle piece. Talk about how the puzzle isn't finished or complete without it.

Next, lead your children to find the piece you have hidden and celebrate being able to finish the puzzle. As you admire your work, begin to explain to your children that they are created by God, and He made them in a wonderful way to be complete only when Jesus is living in their heart as their Savior. If your child has made Jesus their Savior, talk about how having Jesus means they are complete and have everything they need to live and grow as God has planned. Read Jeremiah 29:11-13 together.

For older children, you might talk about how people look in wrong ways and places for what they think they need, but that God is really what they need.

When we spend time with God, we can ask for His help with those things that aren't pleasing to Him and that get in the way of our friendship with Him. On the next page are some examples of these things that get in the way. Using some scissors, cut out the ones that you need His help with and glue them onto the open hands like you are giving them to God. Keep spending time with God and listen for what He wants to say to you through His Word. There are some Bible verses at the bottom of the next page to get you started.



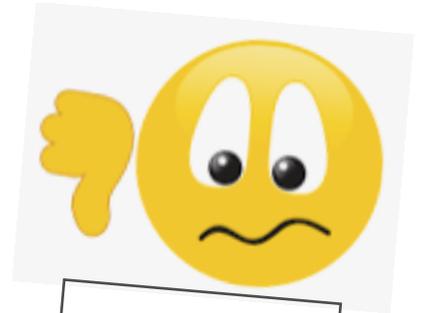


staying upset
instead of
letting it go



being angry

**not
obeying
my parents**



arguing or
complaining



worrying



being unkind or
unloving

**not
forgiving
someone**

Promises From God to Me!

Ephesians 6:2-3 The command says, "Honor your father and mother." This is the first command that has a promise with it. The promise is: "Then everything will be well with you, and you will have a long life on the earth."

Philippians 2:14-15 Live a cheerful life, without complaining or division among yourselves. For then you will be seen as innocent, faultless, and pure children of God,

1 John 4:7 Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and loving to each other. Forgive each other just as God forgave you in Christ.