



### TAKING PART OR WAITING

When parents decide their child is ready to take part in communion, they can do so in faith and with joy.

Where parents decide it is better for their child to wait, either because they are too young to understand or do not yet trust Jesus, these children can still participate in the service.

When the bread and the wine is received at a serving station in the church they can come forward alongside their parents as their parents take part. If they would like, they can be prayed for at that time, that God would richly bless them, or they could simply remain in their seats.



### PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR COMMUNION

So what can you, as a parent, do to prepare your child for taking communion?

- Talk to them about what the bread and the wine symbolize
- If you don't think they are ready to take part yet, talk to them about that before the service, so they are already prepared
- If you think they are ready, let them know they can take communion with joy and thankfulness for what Jesus has done for them



Westlake Church Lausanne

[www.westlakechurch.com/lausanne](http://www.westlakechurch.com/lausanne)

# CHILDREN AND COMMUNION



This leaflet has been written to help parents teach their children about communion and decide when it's right for them to take part

Westlake Church Lausanne  
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## WHAT IS COMMUNION?

Firstly, Communion is a wonderfully simple yet deeply profound reminder to us of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for us and for our sins.

*"Take, eat; this is my body...drink of it...this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins"*  
Matt 26: 26-28



It is made all the more amazing by the fact that we get to take part in it. It's participatory.

Secondly, as we share together from one loaf it reminds us that we are one body, united in Jesus Christ and with every other true believer.

*'Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread'* 1 Cor 10:17



Thirdly, at one and the same time it proclaims His death and the fact that He will come again.

*'For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes'* 1 Cor 11:26

# Children and Communion



## SO WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR THOSE WHO TAKE PART?

Because of what communion represents it should not be taken lightly. The Bible tells us that we should not take part in communion in an 'unworthy manner'.

That means that those who take part in communion should be able to understand what it means and why they are taking it: that they have put their trust and faith in Jesus' death for them.

## SO WHAT ABOUT CHILDREN?

Because many of our children do demonstrate child-like faith in Jesus Christ as their saviour, we want to give these children the opportunity to take communion with their parents.

And so for some children taking communion will be the right thing to do while for others it will be better to wait.

## HOW CAN PARENTS DECIDE WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT?

As a church we do not want to make a rule as to when it is right for children to take communion. This will differ from child to child even within the same family.

We would rather encourage parents to talk about this with their children and come to their own decision.

We would suggest two simple guidelines to help decide whether a child should take part or whether it would be better to wait:

### ***1. Does the child trust and believe in Jesus as their own saviour?***

Parents know their children better than anyone else and so should be able to form some judgment as to whether their child trusts Jesus for their salvation.

We do not expect that children will be able to articulate their faith as well as a more mature adult Christian. However, we would expect a believing child to be able to articulate their faith to their parents.

### ***2. Does the child understand what communion is about?***

Parents should also decide whether their child sufficiently understands what the bread and the wine symbolize.