

Read, Reflect, Review, Resolve: The R⁴ Lord's Supper Bible Study

Class Outline: This supplemental Bible study is meant to complement a four-week class on the history of the Lord's Supper facilitated by Dr. Derek Cooper during the month of February. This supplemental Bible study is best designed for small groups, but it also works as an individual study as well.

Directions: This supplemental Bible study includes four easy-to-follow guidelines for each session: Read, Reflect, Review, Resolve. It is recommended that groups engage each of the Four R's, but they are welcome to do so in any order they prefer. Here is what each R stands for:

1. **Read** the selected biblical passage.
2. **Reflect** on the ideas, context, concepts, and stipulations presented in the Bible and in your conversations.
3. **Review** the handout provided, including the discussion questions offered. Take your conversations in whatever direction you like. Have fun with them.
4. **Resolve** the major issues and tensions that arose in your discussions (whether in the biblical text, in your reflection, or in your review of the handout). Remember to focus on how each topic refers back to the Lord's Supper.

Week 1: Pascha and Lord's Supper

Read Exodus 12—13:16.

Reflect on the parallels between the Passover and the Lord's Supper; and killing of firstborns vis-à-vis the killing of Jesus.

Review the handout topics and questions.

Resolve the relationship between the celebration of the Passover for the Israelites and the immediate killing of the Egyptian firstborns with the Lord's Supper with the disciples and the immediate killing of Jesus.

Week 2: Leviticus and Lord's Supper

Read Leviticus 3, 9, 11, 16.

Reflect on the different offerings required, the role of priests, kosher foods, and how they all relate to food and community.

Review the handout topics and questions.

Resolve how sin (individually and collectively), priestly administration (not just anyone can lead services), sacrifice, and food come together in addressing the failures of a religious community.

Week 3: Jesus and Lord's Supper

Read Mark 14:1-26; Luke 22:1-38.

Reflect on the purpose of the Lord's Supper.

Review the handout topics and questions.

Resolve whether the Lord's Supper was a true Passover, or whether it was something different; and whether there was any lamb present at the meal.

Week 4: Paul and Lord's Supper

Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-34.

Reflect on the way the Christians in Corinth were (mis-) practicing the Lord's Supper and how Paul addressed them.

Review the handout topics and questions.

Resolve the preferred way Paul recommended the Lord's Supper to be practiced and how it should not be practiced.

Final Project: If possible, pray about and discuss with your group the conclusions you have drawn about the Lord's Supper and how you want to explore the insights you have made.