

SPECIAL  
SUNDAY



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

# Adult Discussion



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

# WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

# Adult Discussion



Though congregations may observe World Communion Sunday at any time, they are encouraged to celebrate with a special offering on the first Sunday in October. These discussion questions can be used in a small group or Bible study before or after the special Sunday is observed. Feel free to adapt it to fit the context of your congregation.

This study guide offers several ways to explore World Communion Sunday through The United Methodist Church. Adjust the activities and questions to fit your context and integrate highlights of your church's specific ministries or those of the small group.

## 1. Gathering

Invite people to share the joys and struggles of the week.

## 2. Opening prayer

Wise, nurturing, and welcoming God,  
Thank you for inviting us into new understandings of your love and for lifting and holding us together in this holy space.

As we celebrate World Communion Sunday, we rejoice in the ways that all of your children are connected through your son, Jesus Christ. Amen

## 3. World Communion Sunday

On the first Sunday in October, our church recognizes World Communion Sunday. In The United Methodist Church, a Special Sunday offering helps students from around the world reach their full potential through scholarships, training and mentoring.

We join with other churches to support the dreams of young leaders who are building up God's kingdom. Jesus' love is shared with and through people all over the world. He invites all people to his table. Our church family includes people from around the globe.



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

**The people of The United Methodist Church®**

# WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

## Adult Discussion

### 4. Read stories about how the World Communion Sunday offering has strengthened young leaders.

Johnny Llerena — (link to bulletin insert that tells the story)

Sibanda Esina — <https://www.umc.org/en/content/world-communion-sunday-offering-supports-sibanda-esinas-dream-to-serve-the-disabled-wcs>

Maya Minocha — <https://www.umc.org/en/content/faith-fuels-young-united-methodist-to-help-others-maya-minocha-wcs>

As you consider these testimonies:  
*Where do you see good news of God's love?*

*Where do you see our connection at work?*



*Spend a few minutes discussing how you have experienced the church nurturing your own dreams. Are there young people in your congregation who the church can reach out to and journey alongside?*

### 5. Scripture Reading

Ask someone to read Matthew 26:17-30 and invite participants to write down words and phrases that resonate with them.



Go around and allow each person to say a word or phrase until all have had an opportunity to speak.

### 6. Scripture Discussion

A. During the pandemic, many of us missed receiving the sacrament of Holy Communion.  
*How did this impact you?*

B. Part of the Communion liturgy says, “Just as there is one loaf, we who are many are one body for we all partake of the one bread.”  
*What does this statement mean to you?*

C. *How do you feel about Jesus welcoming Judas to the table of the Last Supper even though he knew Judas would betray him? Does it make you uncomfortable or reassure you? Why?*



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

**The people of The United Methodist Church®**

# WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

## Adult Discussion

D. The United Methodist Church has an open Communion table. There is no age restriction or membership requirement. *Did you grow up in a tradition that had an open table? What are your thoughts about who receives the sacrament?*

E. *How does it feel to share in communion with others? Do you sense the connection with those who are not physically in the same space or who belong to different denominations?*

### 8. Closing Prayer

As we close in a circle, facing one another, be aware of the larger circle of connection with those around the world who are all part of God's welcoming table.

Dear Jesus, thank you for inviting us all to your table that is as wide and long as your love for us. We thank you for your unending love.

As we prepare to go into your world, help each of us to truly understand this gift of life and love that you offer. Continue to show us how to love one another. Amen.



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

**The people of The United Methodist Church®**