



## Sunday Mornings at Valley Bible Chapel

Valley Bible Chapel has two separate services each Sunday morning. Through these services, we seek to express the church's commitment to devote ourselves to "the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, and to the breaking of bread and to prayers" (Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 11:17, 20; 1 Corinthians 14:27-33; and Hebrews 10:25).

### The Lord's Supper (Communion)

We begin each Sunday morning with our Worship Service, or, what many refer to as our Communion Service. We consider the Worship Service to be the most important meeting of our church in that this is the service we conduct in direct obedience to the Lord Jesus's command to "do this in remembrance of Me". Our express goal of this service is to worship Jesus Christ, and we aim to worship Him in praise, in prayer, and in proclamation. In our current format, we begin with about 10 to 15 minutes of praise and worship in song. The goal of this section of our meeting is to focus our thoughts on Jesus Christ through the ministry of music. We want to exalt Him, honor Him, and speak to and about Him through song.

Following our worship in praise, we move into a time of worship in prayer. While not specifically a "prayer meeting," this time is devoted to worshipping Him in prayer. In our praise time we spoke to and about Him in song, in our prayer time, we worship by speaking directly to Him in prayer. We do not see this as a time to pray for our needs or for the needs of others - we see this time as our opportunity to talk directly to Him. This is the time when men, both young and old, are encouraged to lead the congregation to God in prayer. During this time, we welcome the women, as well as the men who do not publicly pray during this time, to pray inaudibly along with those who lead us (1 Corinthians 14:26, 31-35). We want to express our love for Him, to extol His attributes back to Him, to express our appreciation and gratefulness for all that He has done. We want to praise Him for His Son's death on our behalf and we want to thank Him for planning and securing our salvation through the cross. We want to thank Jesus Christ for all that He has done in securing our salvation.

Following our worship through prayer, we spend the next 15 minutes worshipping in proclamation. This time provides the opportunity for the young men as well as the older men to share brief words of encouragement from God's word to the congregation. These thoughts should help to focus the congregation's attention on to the Lord Jesus Christ.

One brother will begin this time of open sharing and following an appropriate time of others taking part, a brother will give thanks for the bread. As with the prayer section of the service, we likewise welcome the women, as well as the men who do not publicly take part audibly during this time, to participate inaudibly with those who lead (1 Corinthians 14:26, 31-35). Immediately following the distribution of the bread, a brother will thank the Lord for the cup and we will pass that to the congregation as well. The Scripture clearly teaches that with taking the bread and the cup, we "... proclaim the Lord's death till He comes" (1 Corinthians 11:26). Our intention, in celebrating the Lord's Supper, is to Worship Him in praise, in prayer, and in proclamation. The Worship Meeting concludes with the recognition of our visitors and with any "family matters" that may need to be taken up.

Each believer has the privilege and responsibility to worship God as the church gathers every Sunday. Young men as well as older men are encouraged to prepare to lead publicly in prayer (praise, adoration, thanksgiving, and supplication directly to God) and in proclamation as they individually determine the Holy Spirit's direction.

The Lord's Supper is the central focus of our weekly worship. It is our means of honoring Jesus Christ for His sacrifice and shed blood for the forgiveness of our sins. The praise, prayers, and proclamation from the Word should all flow naturally toward making the celebration of the Lord's Supper more meaningful. We strongly encourage those men who participate audibly to be mindful of others in terms of how much time they take in sharing and in terms of the time in which they choose to share. Remember that others may want to take part and remember that there are nursery workers and others who need us to finish by the appointed time.

Although only believers in the Lord Jesus Christ should take part in Communion, there is no requirement that you be a regular attendee at Valley to participate in this remembrance service. Care, however, should be taken by each participant to insure that he/she observes Communion with the reverence and dignity which our Lord's sacrifice for us requires. Because of this, we encourage self-examination before partaking of the Lord's Supper.

## **The Bible Hour**

Paul told Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:2 to "preach the word" without compromise, whether "in season or out of season." The focus of our Bible Hour is to fulfill this critical responsibility and privilege in the context of our Sunday morning gathering of the entire congregation. We are committed to the careful exposition of God's word because we understand that God alone, through the Bible, has "granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:2-4, 19-21; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:4; Hebrews 4:12).

In consideration to those ministering to our children, we ask that children be picked up promptly from the nursery after the teaching hour.