

Jesus Welcomes You:

**a book for
children about
communion**

by Glenn Cooper



Jesus loved children

Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17

One time, some parents brought their children to see Jesus.
Some of Jesus' friends thought that the children might bother Jesus.
So Jesus' friends told the people to take their children away.
But Jesus did not like what his friends did.

So Jesus said, "Bring the children to me,
and do not stop them."

Then he picked the children up,
one at a time, and blessed
each one of them.

He said a prayer,
asking God
to take care of them.



Communion for Kevin

Kevin looked around the church at all the people. He wondered why there always seemed to be more people when they had Communion. Must be because it's special. This morning the ushers even had to put extra chairs in the aisles.

The table at the front was ready for Communion, with special things on it. There were two piles of trays that had little glasses of wine or grape juice, and there was a lid on the top of the pile. There were also several plates of little pieces of bread, and the plates were covered with white napkins. There was also a big wine glass. Kevin remembered the other name for it — a chalice.

When he was little, Kevin didn't know what Communion was all about. A couple of years ago his church had started to invite children to stay in the service when there was Communion, instead of going to Church School classes. Now he ate the bread and drank the grape juice just like the older people.

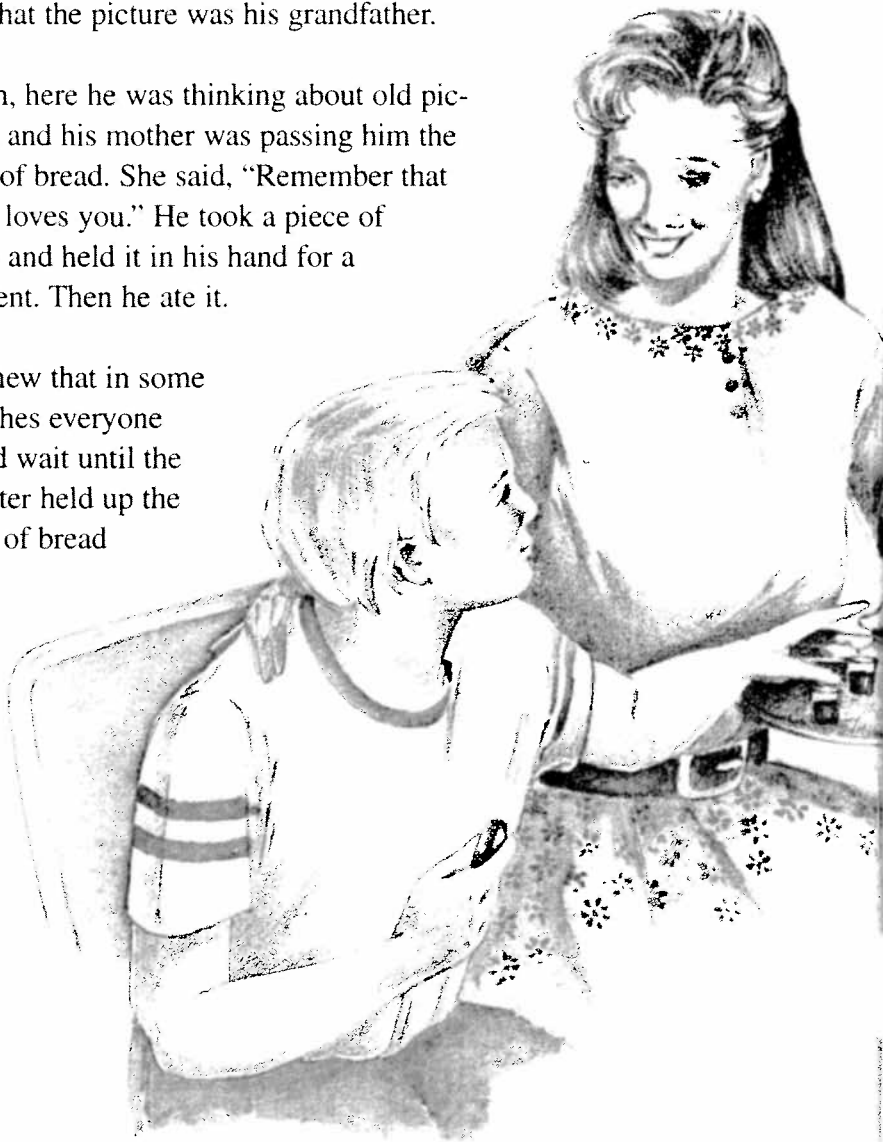
Kevin's parents had talked with him about Communion. They told him that Communion is a special meal. He knew that already. They also said it's a family meal, kind of like going to Grandma and Grandpa's for dinner, except this is the church family. When they go to Grandma and Grandpa's, his mom always tells him to be extra polite, not to interrupt when someone else is talking, to try to sit quietly. That's sort of how he tries to behave at Communion.

Kevin's mom and dad said that Communion is a time when we can thank God for Jesus. We can remember all the things that Jesus does for us. Kevin knew that Jesus and his disciples did the very same

thing at the Last Supper. It's kind of hard to understand when the minister holds up the bread and says "This is my body." But Kevin thinks about the time he saw a very old picture and his dad had said, "That's my grandfather. He died long before you were born." Kevin knew that the picture was just a piece of paper with some markings on it. But his dad was also right when he said that the picture was his grandfather.

Uh oh, here he was thinking about old pictures, and his mother was passing him the plate of bread. She said, "Remember that Jesus loves you." He took a piece of bread and held it in his hand for a moment. Then he ate it.

He knew that in some churches everyone would wait until the minister held up the piece of bread



and said, "My body, which is for you." Then they all ate the bread at the same time.

His father said that after he gets his piece of bread he closes his eyes and thinks about all the good things that Jesus has done. Just as he is eating his bread, he says to himself, "Thank you, God."

Just then the wine and grape juice were passed. Kevin knew that the purple was the wine and the clear was the grape juice. His mother took the wine and his father took the juice. Kevin took juice and his father said, "This is the new covenant." That was another big word he had just learned: covenant. His parents said that it's a promise that God will always love us. Kevin had asked, "Even when we do bad things?" His dad said, "Even then."

His mom and dad told him stories about other covenants in the Bible. He remembered the story of Noah because he thought of it every time he saw a rainbow, but he hadn't known it was called a covenant. God promised Abraham he would have children even though he was an old man. That was a covenant.

Kevin remembered that just a moment ago the minister had lifted up the chalice and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood."

Kevin drank his juice and prayed, "Thank you, God, for Jesus."

(Communion for Kevin was written by June Holohan, Unionville, Ontario)

Communion at Our Church

*Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-23; 1
Corinthians 11:23-26*

On some Sundays when we get to church, it looks as if something very important is going to happen. On the Communion table there is some bread. There is also some wine or grape juice.

After we sing, pray and read the Bible, the minister moves close to the Communion table.

The minister says a prayer thanking God for the food and the drink.

Then the people in church eat and drink together. It is a special time called "Communion."

The minister also says words from the Bible.

Some of them are the words of Jesus: "This is my body." And "This is my blood."

Do those words sound strange?



Jesus is telling us that when we eat and drink like that in church,
he is with us.

The minister will say other words from
the Bible.

“O taste and see that the Lord is good.”

“This is the bread of life.”

“This is the cup of hope.”

“Take this and eat it.”

“Take this and drink it.”

When we eat and drink together in church like that, we say a prayer
thanking God for many good things.



“God, thank you for your love.
Thank you for your church and
all its people.”

“Thank you God for good things
to eat and to drink.
Thank you for Communion.
Thank you for Jesus. Amen.”

A young boy helps Jesus

John 6:1-11 (especially verse 9); Matthew 14:13-21 (especially verse 21)

Jesus served a meal to thousands of people. Have you ever seen thousands of people? That's a lot.



One day a large crowd went looking for Jesus. They finally found him. He was with some of his friends and followers. Jesus said to one friend, "Where will we buy food to feed all these people?"

His friend, whose name was Philip, said, "Even if we took all the money I earned in half a year, that would buy just enough to give everyone a small taste." It was a very big crowd.

But there was also a child there who gave five loaves of bread and two small, cooked fish to Jesus. "Will this help?" he asked.

Jesus said, "Thank you" and took the bread and fish from the child. Then Jesus said a prayer of thanks for food, and gave the bread and the fish to the people. And they all had enough to eat!

There were five thousand men in the crowd. Women were there, too. So were children, although nobody thought to count how many children and women there were.

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