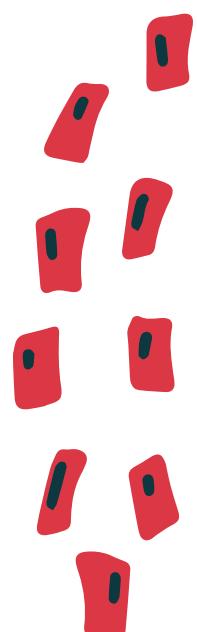




WHAT IS Communion?





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This book belongs to:



I'm working on this book with:



We started on:



We finished on:





This book is designed for inquisitive kids and awesome parents who want to discover what the Bible has to say about communion.

By the time you have finished this book, you will be experts on the subject of communion. Well... maybe not experts, but you'll know enough to feel confident about what communion is and what it means.

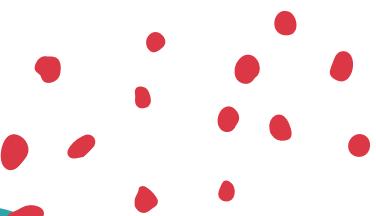


Did you know? Jesus set the pattern for communion with His friends at their final meal together before His death. He used bread and juice to help them remember His love. We still do the same today.

Keep reading to learn more!



Have you ever seen someone taking communion?
What did you notice?



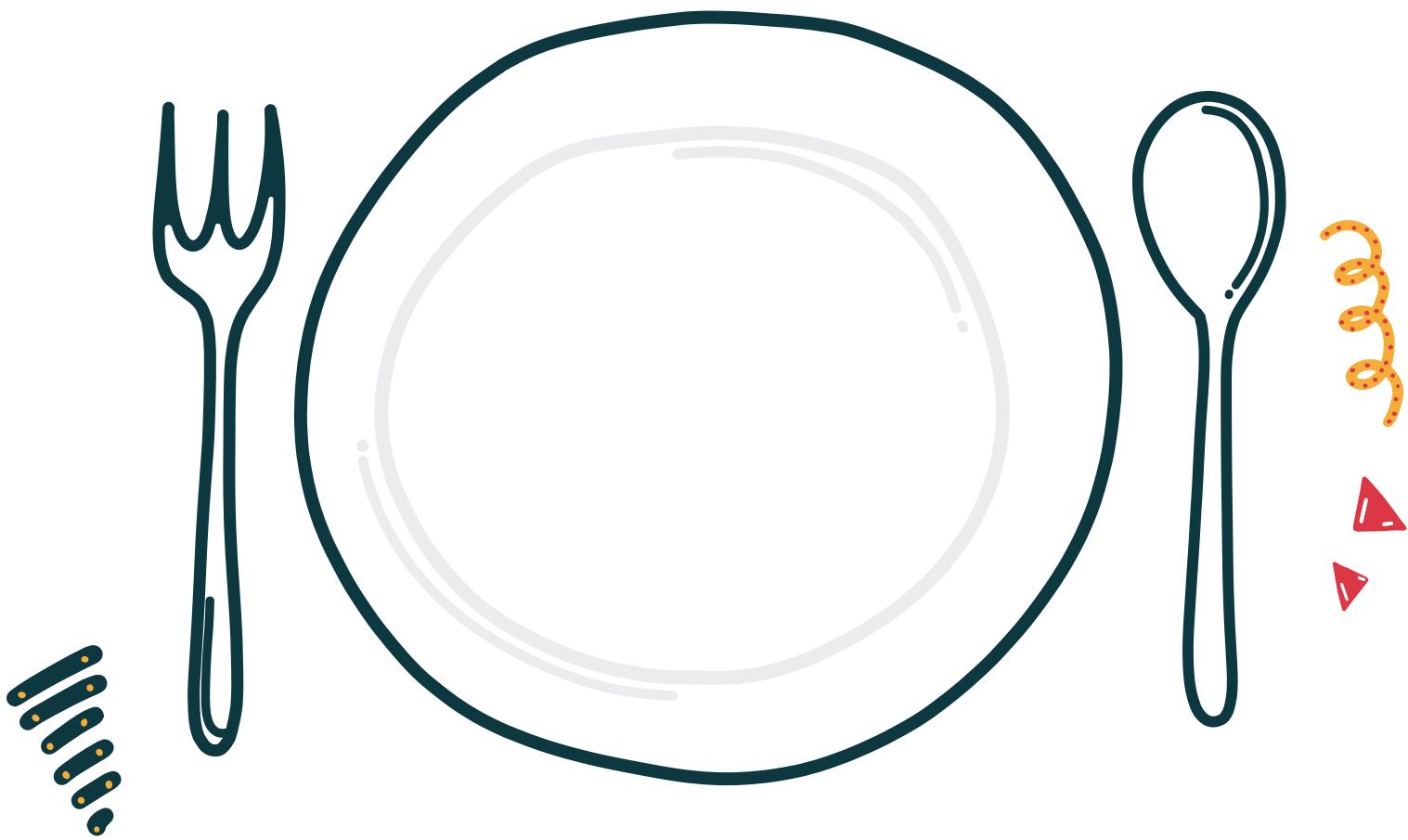


The Bible tells us that God gave His people special ways to remember the great things He did for them. A long time ago, God saved His people from being slaves in Egypt. He told them to celebrate Passover every year to remember how He rescued them, and that He would rescue them again.

Read more about the Passover in Exodus chapter 12.

Many years later, Jesus was with His closest friends, His disciples, to celebrate the Passover. They ate this special meal together, not knowing it was the last meal they would have with Jesus before He died.

This was an important meal for Jesus and His friends. Do you ever have meals with your friends? Use the plate below to draw a picture of a meal you like to share with a friend or family. What is your favorite food?



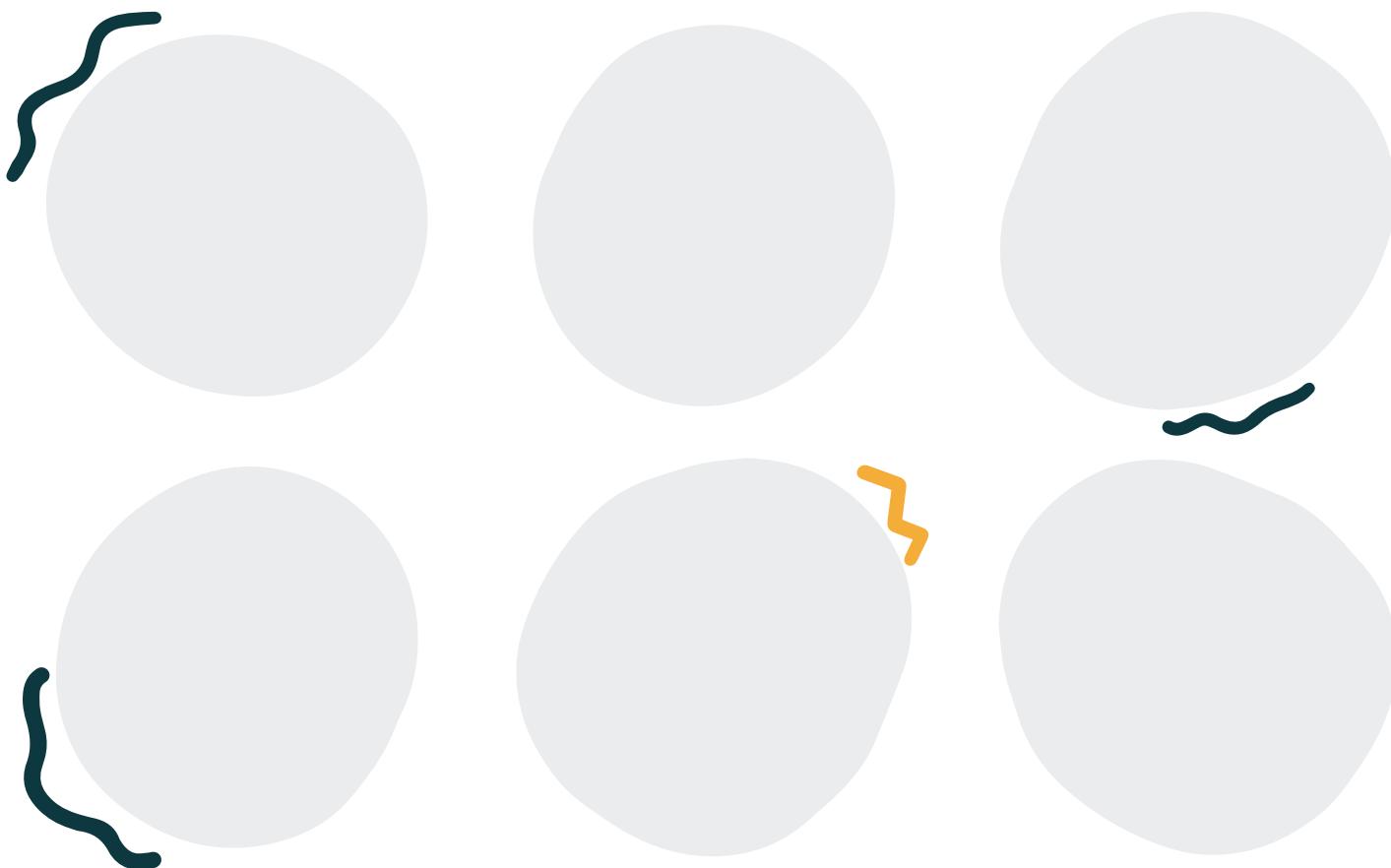
Plot Twist: With the permission of an adult, make your plate scratch-and-sniff! Choose a safe spice (like cinnamon, cocoa) that matches one of your favorite foods. Sprinkle a little on the plate and rub it in. Then draw the food that goes with that smell.

Jesus used some symbols at the last meal He shared with His friends. A symbol is a picture or object that represents something else and helps us remember important things.

Sometimes symbols are real things we can touch, like bread and juice at communion. Other times, they're pictures or designs, like the cross we see on a church or the logos we see on clothes, toys, food, or apps.

Find the Symbols!

Look around your room, your closet, or your kitchen. Think about your favorite apps, toys, or sports teams. Find 6 picture symbols you recognize right away, then draw them in the spaces below.



 **Plot Twist:** If you have packaging, toy boxes, or magazines with logos or symbols in them, cut a few out and glue them into the spaces along with your drawings. 

Let's look at the Bible and see exactly what Jesus said when He gave His disciples these symbols. Some of the words are missing. Can you use your Bible to fill them in?



While they were eating, Jesus took _____, and when he had given thanks, he _____ it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my _____. Then he took a _____, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my _____ of the _____, which is poured out for many for the _____ of _____.":

Matthew 26:26-28 (NIV)



The bread is a symbol that reminds us Jesus' body was broken so we can be healed inside and out. The juice we use is a symbol of His blood, shed to forgive our sins. Thinking about His suffering can be sad, but we should never forget what He did. If He had not died, our sins could never be completely forgiven, and we would not have a chance to live forever with Him.



If you feel it's necessary, take a moment to remind your child that these are symbols—special reminders of Jesus' love—and not His actual body and blood.

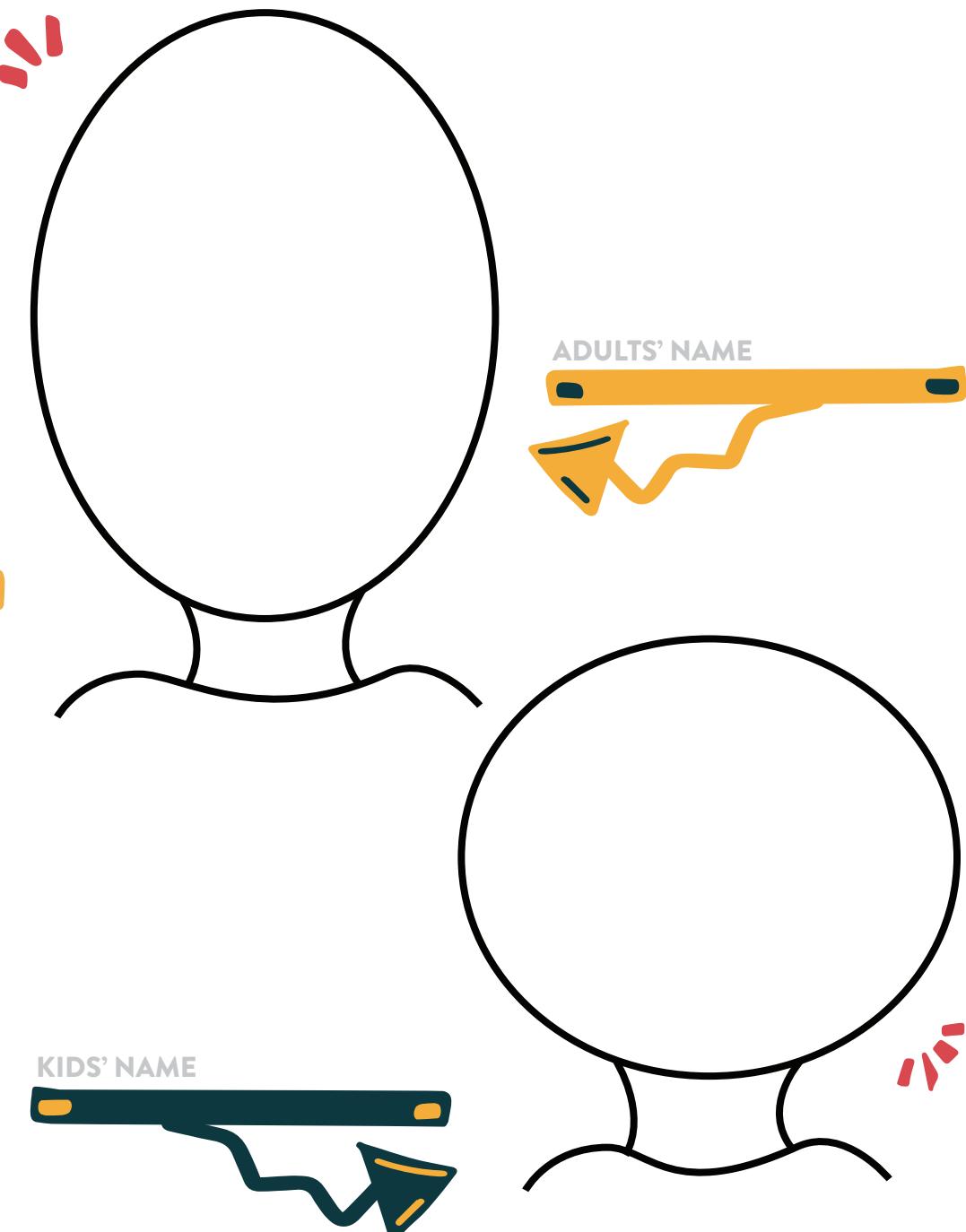
Communion is a time to remember.

We usually remember things we see all the time. That's why you can recognize your favorite snack at the store or know the logo on your favorite toy. You and your parent (or the person you're with) see each other every single day. You should be able to remember things like eye color, hairstyle, or even the shirt they're wearing right now, whether or not you're a great artist!

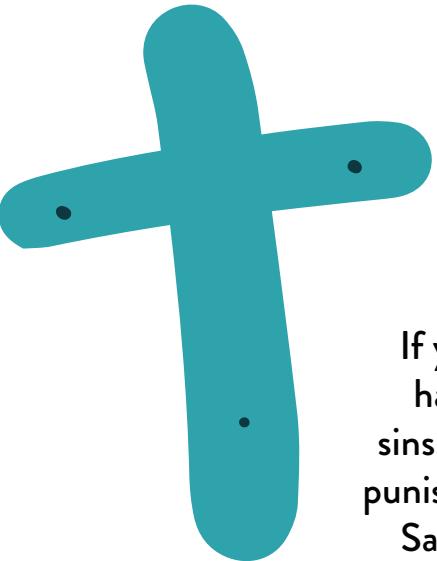
Instructions

On this page are 2 face outlines—1 for the adult and 1 for the kid.

1. Grab some crayons or markers so you can add details like eye color, hair color, or even shirt color.
2. The adult turns around while the kid draws their face and details from memory.
3. Switch! Now the kid turns around while the adult draws from memory.
4. Compare your drawings and talk about what you remembered—and what you didn't!



The more often we see or do something, the easier it is to remember. That's why you remember so much about the people you see every day. Jesus gave us a pattern for communion for the same reason, so we would keep remembering Him. The bread reminds us of His body broken for us. The juice reminds us of His blood shed to forgive us. He did that because He loves you, and you matter to Him! Every time we take communion, those symbols help us remember what He did for us and how much He loves us!



Who should take communion?

Communion is for people who believe in Jesus. If you have asked Jesus to forgive your sins and are following Him, you are ready to take communion.

If you haven't asked Jesus to forgive you yet, you can do it now! Everyone has done things that God says are wrong. Those wrong things are called sins, and sin separates us from God. But Jesus died on the cross to take our punishment. If you believe that, you can ask Him to forgive you and be your Savior. Then, you can have a friendship with Him, and communion will remind you how much He loves you!



Jesus, thank You for loving me so much that You took the punishment for my sins. Thank You for forgiveness and giving me communion to remember what You have done. I love You and want to follow You. In Jesus' name, Amen.



If today is the first time you've asked Jesus to forgive you and be your Savior, use this space to write your prayer to Him. If you've already done that, you can write a prayer thanking Him for saving you and remembering what He has done.

Jesus, I'm thankful for...

Please help me remember...

I want to follow You by...

Plot Twist: Tear out your prayer from this page and place it in your Bible. That way, every time you open it, you'll remember the prayer you prayed and what Jesus has done for you.



Want to help your child understand more about salvation? Connect with your kids pastor and request the My Big Book-Salvation resource available through KidminRoadmap.com.

Think about something really special that people don't treat like everything else. Athletes display their trophies or medals on a shelf or in a case. They don't just toss them in the toy box! They are set apart and treated with care because they're special.

Now think about something you see as special. Maybe it gets its own place on a shelf, or you treat it differently from your other things. It might be a trophy, a favorite toy, a drawing, or even a family photo.

On the shelf below, draw something you keep set apart in a special place.
What's something that matters to you?



That's what the word **holy** means—set apart by God for a special purpose. Because of what Jesus did, communion is a special and holy time, not just an ordinary moment. It is an act of worship, showing our love and respect for God for all He has done for us. The bread and juice are special symbols, and we should take communion remembering that it is holy. It is not a snack because we are hungry – it's a meaningful way to remember Jesus. Taking communion is important because Jesus told us to do it. The Bible tells us in 1 Corinthians 11:28–29 that there are consequences for not treating communion like it is special and holy.

Before we take communion, we should take time to ask these questions:

Do I need to ask God to forgive me for something? If so, now is the time.
Am I living in a way that honors Jesus? If not, I should try to follow Him better.

Communion isn't just something we do alone. When we take the bread and the juice, we join millions of people around the world who love Jesus. If we believe in Him, we belong to God's family. Communion is our family meal that connects us to each other and to Jesus.

It's the pattern Jesus set with His disciples long ago, and the meal God's family has shared ever since to remember the cross. At that meal Jesus said, "*I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.*"

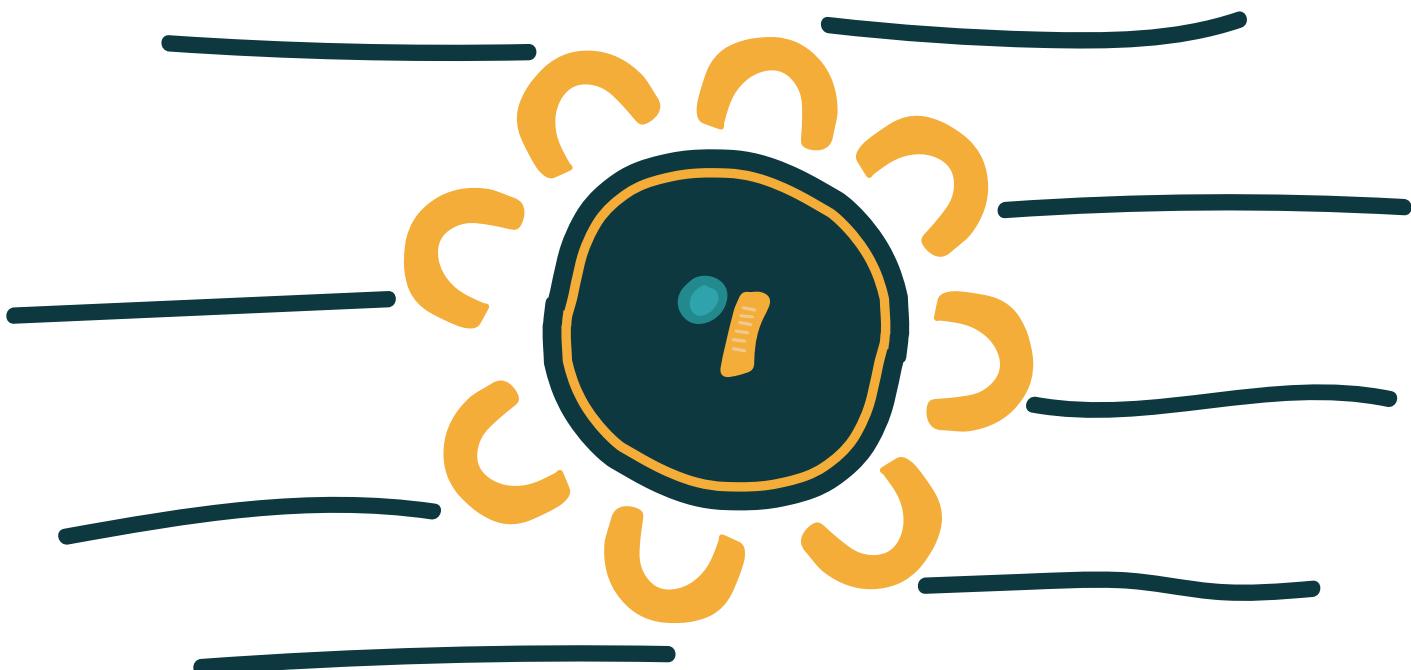
(Matthew 26:29, NIV)

So communion looks two ways: back to remember the cross, and forward to the day when the whole family of God is with Jesus again.

Until then, we should look for ways to bring more people to the table—friends, family, and neighbors who don't yet know Jesus. Communion reminds us that He died not just for us, but for everyone who will believe.



Label the chairs with the names of people you know who love and follow Jesus. Don't forget to add your own name—you belong too! If you add the name of someone who still needs to come to know Jesus, draw a heart next to their name. That way you can remember to pray for them and ask God to bring them into His family.



Plot Twist: The next time you share a meal with your family or friends, snap a photo together at the table and tape it here. As you look at the picture, pray especially for the people you marked with a heart in your table drawing. Ask God to bring them into His family so one day they'll share communion too.

