Communion – with Interactive Stations

INTRODUCTION

Communion is a special service for most churches. Every church has their way of celebrating it, and often it is done the same way most of the time. Recently we did an Interactive Communion Service. We invited people to participate in the service by physically getting up and moving around the sanctuary to interact with items at the different stations that were set up. (*If your sanctuary doesn’t easily lend itself to setting up stations, check the “ADAPTION IDEAS” at the bottom.*)

THE FORMAT

The first part of the service was very similar to a usual Sunday with singing and announcements, prayers, and so on. Then we clearly explained what would be happening for the rest of the service, making sure people knew what was expected of them.

We had set up 6 different stations, consisting of a small table with an item on it and a note clearly stating what people were invited to do, and an appropriate selection of scripture printed out. We had music playing quietly in the background. There was no order that people had to follow. They could choose whichever station had the shortest line.

After everyone had an opportunity to experience the stations, we returned to our seats to conclude with a traditional observance of communion, before concluding the service.

THE STATIONS

Station One

On the table is a pile of rags and the printed scripture card.

Title: The curtain in the temple is torn in half:

Directions:

1. Grab a rag and rip it in half,
2. Read the scripture of the Temple curtain being torn in half as Jesus died on the cross. A reminder of Jesus opening the way for us right into the Most Holy Place, the Throne Room in Heaven.

Scripture: *Matthew 27:45-54*

Station Two

On the table is a large bowl of water and some towels, and the printed scripture card.

Title: Jesus washed away our sins:

Directions:

1. Read the verses first.
2. Then take turns pouring some water over your hands, above the bowl, washing them, reminding yourself of 2 things:
   1. Your sins washed away, and
   2. Jesus “pouring out” the Spirit upon us.

Scripture: *Titus 3:3-6*

Station Three

On the table is a large tray containing sand, and the scripture card.

Title: Write your name in the sand:

Directions:

1. Write your name in the sand as someone reads John 8.

Jesus doesn’t condemn the woman but tells her to go and sin no more.

We are also to “sin no more.”

Scripture: *John 8: 1-11*

Station Four

On the table is a globe, and a scripture card.

Title: How far God removes your sins:

Directions:

1. Find where you live on the globe. Put your finger on that spot.
2. Then see how far west you can go or east you can go from there. There is no end.
3. Then read the verse about how far God has removed our sins.

Scripture: *Psalm 103: 8-12*

Station Five

On the table are some large old nails, and the scripture card.

Title: Nails pierced our Saviour’s hands:

Directions:

1. Hold the large nails, reminding yourself that Jesus went through a lot of pain – his hands pierced by nails for us.
2. Then read Isaiah 53: 1-6.

Scripture: *Isaiah 53: 1-6*

Station Six

On the table are a number of small rough pieces of wood, along with the scripture card.

Title: The rea temple:

Directions:

1. Build a little temple with the wood.
2. Now tear it apart – because God does not live in buildings made of wood and stone – but in our hearts.
3. Now read the verses

Scriptures: *1 Corinthians 3:16/1 Corinthians 6:19/Ephesians 2:20-22*

Note: I was pleasantly surprised to see everyone in the congregation, except a new family, join in the stations. It was encouraging to hear from a few different members who explained how significant one or two of the stations had been for them, even connecting deeply with their emotions.

ADAPTION IDEAS

We have chairs instead of pews, and more room than we need right now, so we could move things around to make space for the stations. If this is not possible for you, consider setting up stations in your foyer or in a large nearby classroom, fellowship room, or gym.

Use the above stations as examples and set up as many as your space will allow.