

The Eucharist: A Sacrificial Offering and Transformational Event

1. How does the reality that humans depend upon the gifts of the earth in order to live help us to explain why many ancient cultures offered symbolic sacrificial meals? How well does the ancient Jewish Passover meal fit this pattern? Explain.

✂-----

2. What did the lamb that was sacrificed and shared as a part of every Passover meal symbolize? What do we mean when we say that Jesus is our *Paschal Lamb*?

✂-----

3. At the last Passover meal that Jesus shared with his friends, what is the significance of Jesus' identifying himself with the bread and wine?

✂-----

4. The term *sacrifice* in the Judeo-Christian community is used to embrace any action that is done to acknowledge God as Creator of all and to commit oneself in obedience to God. How does Jesus' sacrifice fit with this understanding? In what ways does our participation in the Eucharist fulfill this description of a sacrifice?

✂-----

5. As Jesus broke and offered the bread at the Last Supper, he said, "Do this in memory of me" (Luke 22:19). What is Jesus really asking us to do in his memory?

✂-----

6. How does each of the four ways Christ is present in the celebration of the Eucharist make Christ present as a sacrifice for us?

✂-----

7. Consider for a moment what it means to be present, and how being present to another person requires a "sacrifice" of self-giving. How does this relate to the presence of Christ in the Eucharist?

✂-----

8. How can the sacramental offering of Christ's sacrificial presence in the celebration of the Eucharist transform a community?

✂-----



✂-----

9. How does Christ's sacrificial presence in the Eucharist continue to be offered to the world after the celebration has ended? Give specific examples.

✂-----

(The scriptural quotation on this handout is from the *New American Bible, revised edition* © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, D.C. All Rights Reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the copyright owner.)

