



— *Baptism and the Lord's Supper as Visible Signs of Life Together Under Christ* —



SESSION AIM

Help teachers and group leaders explain the purpose of the ordinances, how baptism and the Lord's Supper visibly express covenant identity, and why the ordinances belong within the gathered life of the church.



BIG IDEA

Christ gave His church visible ordinances that proclaim the Gospel, identify believers with Him and His people, and strengthen covenant life together through remembrance, worship, participation, and proclamation.



WHAT THIS SESSION BUILDS UPON

From Leader Sheets 1–9:

- The church is gathered by Christ.
- Christianity is embodied covenant life.
- Believers belong to one another.
- Worship forms believers.
- The church visibly represents Christ's Kingdom.

This Session Expands:

- Visible covenant identity.
- Baptism and church belonging.
- The Lord's Supper and shared remembrance.
- Ordinances as embodied worship.



FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES

- Matthew 28:19–20
- Romans 6:3–5
- 1 Corinthians 10:16–17
- 1 Corinthians 11:23–26
- Acts 2:41–42



PRINCIPLE

The ordinances are visible acts of the gathered church that proclaim the Gospel, identify believers with Christ, and strengthen covenant life together.



RECOMMENDED VISUALS

- Ordinances and Covenant Identity
- The Gathered Church
- Online Christianity vs The Gathered Church
- Embassy of the Kingdom
- Worship → Formation → Mission



NEXT STEPS

- Continue with RC2 Leader Sheet 11.
- Review the Ordinances and Covenant Identity visual.
- Discern practical ways your church can deepen reverence and participation.
- Encourage faithful, embodied worship together under Christ.

TEACHING FLOW: HOW TO USE THIS SHEET

1



BEGIN WITH CHRIST'S COMMAND

- Christ instituted the ordinances.
- They belong to the church.
- They proclaim the Gospel visibly.

USE THIS:
Matthew 28:19–20
1 Corinthians 11:23–26
Key Passages



KEY EMPHASIS: The ordinances come from Christ.

2



TEACH BAPTISM AS COVENANT IDENTIFICATION

- Public identification with Christ.
- Union with His death and resurrection.
- Entrance into visible covenant life.
- Witness before the church and world.

USE THIS:
Romans 6:3–5
Articles
Visual



KEY EMPHASIS: Baptism visibly identifies believers with Christ and His people.

3



TEACH THE LORD'S SUPPER AS SHARED REMEMBRANCE

- Remembrance of Christ's death.
- Proclamation of the Gospel.
- Thanksgiving and unity in the body.
- Self-examination and worship together.

USE THIS:
1 Corinthians 10:16–17
1 Corinthians 11:23–26
Articles
Visual



KEY EMPHASIS: The church proclaims Christ together at His table.

4



CONNECT THE ORDINANCES TO EMBODIED CHRISTIANITY

- Visible participation in God's covenant life.
- Gathered worship strengthens believers.
- Covenant identity becomes visible.
- Shared proclamation of the Gospel.

USE THIS:
Acts 2:41–42
Articles
Visual



KEY EMPHASIS: The ordinances are embodied covenant acts.

5



ADDRESS MODERN DISTORTIONS

- Ritualism and empty formalism.
- Individualism and private spirituality.
- Sentimentalism and emotionalism.
- Casual treatment and lack of reverence.
- Detached online participation.

USE THIS:
Discussion Starters
Examples



KEY EMPHASIS: The ordinances proclaim covenant life together.

6



APPLY PRACTICALLY

- Approach the ordinances reverently.
- Remember Christ faithfully.
- Participate in gathered worship consistently.
- Reflect on covenant identity in Christ.
- Strengthen unity within the church body.

USE THIS:
Application Ideas
Handouts



KEY EMPHASIS: Live as a people marked by Christ's covenant.



KEY EMPHASES



CHRIST INSTITUTED THE ORDINANCES
The church receives the ordinances from Him.



BAPTISM IDENTIFIES BELIEVERS PUBLICLY
The Gospel becomes visible through covenant identification.



THE LORD'S SUPPER PROCLAIMS CHRIST
The church remembers and proclaims His death together.



THE ORDINANCES BELONG TO GATHERED WORSHIP
They are visible acts of covenant participation.



THE CHURCH BEARS WITNESS THROUGH EMBODIED WORSHIP
The ordinances visibly display the Gospel to the world.



COMMON CONFUSIONS

- ✘ **"The ordinances are merely symbolic rituals."**
They visibly proclaim Gospel realities and covenant identity.
- ✘ **"Baptism is only private spirituality."**
Baptism publicly identifies believers with Christ and His people.
- ✘ **"The Lord's Supper is merely individual remembrance."**
The church proclaims Christ together as one body.
- ✘ **"Online participation fully replaces gathered observance."**
The ordinances belong to embodied covenant life.
- ✘ **"The ordinances are optional."**
Christ commanded them for His church.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1 Why did Christ give visible ordinances to His church?
- 2 How does baptism identify believers with Christ and His people?
- 3 Why is the Lord's Supper meant to be shared together?
- 4 How do the ordinances strengthen covenant life?
- 5 Why do the ordinances require embodied participation?
- 6 How can churches unintentionally treat the ordinances casually?



APPLICATION FOCUS

- ✓ Approach the ordinances reverently.
- ✓ Remember Christ faithfully.
- ✓ Participate in gathered worship consistently.
- ✓ Reflect on covenant identity in Christ.
- ✓ Strengthen unity within the church body.



PRAYER FOCUS

- Pray for reverence in worship.
- Pray for unity within the church.
- Pray for faithful Gospel witness.
- Pray for humility and gratitude.
- Pray for Christ to strengthen His people together.



CHRIST GAVE HIS CHURCH
VISIBLE SIGNS OF COVENANT LIFE
TO PROCLAIM HIS GOSPEL, STRENGTHEN HIS PEOPLE,
AND BEAR WITNESS TOGETHER UNDER HIS REIGN.
ONE LORD. ONE KINGDOM. ONE PEOPLE.

