



Souvenirs

by Helen Redfern Suitable for Whole School (Sec)

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Aims

To underline the importance of remembering and to understand the sacrament of Holy Communion more clearly.

Preparation and Materials

- Souvenirs and mementoes of your own to show and talk about. These need to be set out, within view of all and ready to use.
- A cup and a plate, or a picture of the communion bread and the wine.

Assembly

1. I wonder how many of you have:
A Mickey Mouse key ring from Disneyland?
A snowstorm of the Empire State Building from New York?
A sombrero from Spain?
An Eiffel Tower pencil sharpener?
A shell from the Caribbean?
A tartan purse from Scotland?
How about T shirts, mugs, spoons, pencils, printed with A souvenir from *Clacton-on-Sea ...or the Costa Brava ... or Canada ... or wherever?*
2. Talk about a souvenir of your own that you have brought in with you - where it comes from, when you got it, what it you reminds you of.

Then ask the students to tell their neighbour about a souvenir that they have at home and what it signifies for them.

3. The word 'souvenir' is actually from the French word meaning 'to remember'. A traveller brings home a souvenir for the memories associated with it. It is so much more than just an object - it's a tangible reminder of a great holiday, a fun time with friends or family, lovely weather or an unforgettable experience.

4. In the same way, you may have a memento of a special occasion, or a keepsake to remind you of someone who has died. These objects help you to remember an event or a special person.

Share an example of your own if you have one.

5. The Gospel of Luke, chapter 22, tells of the last meal that Jesus shares with his friends. He knows that he is not going to be with them for much longer and wants to leave them with something to remember him by.

‘He took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.”’ (Luke 22.19-20)

6. Jesus took two everyday objects and gave them a new significance. Every time his friends ate bread and drank wine, they would remember Jesus and all he had done for them.

And still, over 2,000 years later, Christians all over the world remember Jesus and his death on the cross by sharing bread and wine together. Some call this a service of Holy Communion, others the Eucharist, others Mass, others the Breaking of Bread. All use these symbols to help them remember.

Reinforce the point here with the cup and plate or picture of the bread and the wine.

Time for reflection

Take time to remember.

Take time to remember the people who have loved you:

The friends you have laughed with,

The family you have lived with,

Those who have really known you and accepted you as you.

Take time to remember the events that have changed you:

The places you have been,



The things you have seen,
The feats you have achieved beyond your wildest dreams.

Take time to remember the beliefs that have shaped you:
The role models that have inspired you,
The encounters that have moulded you,
The truths you have discovered to really set you free.

Take time to remember.

Music if appropriate

- 'Lord Jesus Christ' (Patrick Appleford)
- 'Broken for me' (Janet Lunt)
- 'Here is Love' (Robert Lowry)
- 'There is a Redeemer' (Melody Green)