

November 21, 2021

# Communion Connections

## 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

The Focal Passage for this lesson reminds us of our community responsibilities and chides us when we allow our individualism to get in the way of our obligations to one another: “So when you get together in one place, it isn’t to eat the Lord’s meal. Each of you goes ahead and eats a private meal. One person goes hungry while another is drunk. Don’t you have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you look down on God’s churches and humiliate those who have nothing? What can I say to you? Will I praise you? No, I don’t praise you in this” (1 Corinthians 11:20-22). Scripture makes it clear that we are responsible for seeing needs in our community and meeting them if we can.

Cities and towns all over the world have organizations that help those in need by sharing resources among neighbors. You may have heard of The Little Free Library, a book-sharing resource, or The Little Free Pantry, a community food-sharing resource. These are examples of ways to take sharing to a hyper-local level. Andrew Taylor, who lives in Kaiapoi, New Zealand, saw a need in his community, too, and set about filling it.

When trimming trees in his yard, Taylor decided to turn the branches into sticks for local dogs. The Stick Library was born. “After chopping up the branches into several dozen conveniently-sized pieces, he put them into a hand-crafted box emblazoned with the words ‘Stick Library: Please Return’ and brought it to the park.”<sup>1</sup> Local pups (and their owners) loved the idea.

The Stick Library is a silly anecdote to demonstrate a much larger idea. As Christians, we are called to consider the needs of others in our thoughts and actions. Whether that’s inviting a newcomer to sit with us at a church meal or creating a food pantry or just cutting up yard brush for neighborhood dogs, we are obligated to consider one another. Our neighbors’ needs should be a source of concern for us. We should constantly be searching for ways to better the lives of those around us.

1. What do you think of small neighborhood-shared resources such as the Stick Library and the Little Free Library?
2. Have you received assistance from a community organization? How did it make you feel?
3. What is a particular need in your neighborhood? How can you help fill it?

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<sup>1</sup>From [goodnewsnetwork.org/dad-turns-tree-branches-into-stick-library-for-dogs/](http://goodnewsnetwork.org/dad-turns-tree-branches-into-stick-library-for-dogs/).