

Blood

(Gross Theology 7)

Matthew 26:26 - 29 (NRSV) ²⁶While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Mark 14:22 - 25 (NRSV) ²²While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." ²³Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. ²⁴He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

Luke 22:14 - 20 (NRSV) ¹⁴When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; ¹⁶for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." ¹⁷Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; ¹⁸for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹Then 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." ²⁰And 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."

How to Make Fake Blood (From dainter.com/infocus/fakeblood.htm and Hands On Grossology)

Ingredients:

1/4 cup clear corn syrup

red food coloring

2 Tbsp of water

2 Tbsp corn starch

1/2 tablespoon powdered cocoa

Take 1/4 cup of the corn syrup, and add water. Add the 8 drops of food coloring and mix the "blood"

Now add corn starch and the cocoa to your mixture, and gently mix it all again.

You now have a bottle of realistic fake blood! You can experiment with the amounts of ingredients which you feel gets you the best "blood like" consistency.

This "blood" may stain skin, and may permanently stain clothes. Put it in the fridge if you want to keep it for awhile.

Say: You've seen the great fake blood in the horror movies that come out every few months, right? And I'm sure you've seen digital blood on the latest video game (students will shout out their favorites right now.) And using this fake blood makes things look pretty gory, right?

But what do you really know about blood? What does it do in our bodies? (Students may offer suggestions -- or maybe even the right answer.) In short -- blood brings nutrients to our muscles and takes away waste. Here's the dictionary version: *The fluid consisting of plasma, blood cells, and platelets that is circulated by the heart through the vertebrate vascular system, carrying oxygen and nutrients to and waste materials away from all body tissues.* (from dictionary.com)

Blood is necessary for us to have life. If we lose too much blood, we have to replace it through a transfusion or we die. Do you know where the blood for transfusions comes from? (Most should know) What people do you know who donate blood? What places do you know where people can donate blood? What do you know about how blood is donated and the different types of blood? (Students will likely discuss on a variety of topics that include The American Red Cross, local blood banks, types A, B, AB and O and maybe some additional types of blood donation like platelet apheresis. A personal donation story from the author:

I have CMV (cytomegalovirus) negative blood. Half of the population carries this virus while the other half do not. For most people, CMV causes no ill effects. However, a person with a weakened or not fully developed immune system could become very ill if exposed to CMV. The blood I donate is specifically earmarked for premature babies, cancer patients and others who cannot fight infection.) I donate with regularity every 8 weeks.

Repeating: Blood is necessary for us to have life. What other uses of the word blood or with blood itself can you think of that relate to life?

Possible directions for this discussion to go:

Blood relatives are our families -- the importance of families in their many different expressions.

Related words or phrases: lifeblood, bad blood, in cold blood,

After discussion, say: Lots of times that is what people say about blood as it relates to being a Christian. We think of the blood that Jesus shed as he was beaten, flogged and then crucified on the cross. We remember the blood of a sacrificial lamb or turtledove being used to cleanse us from our sin. All of those references to blood are about blood that is shed or spilled from a living thing.

In this lesson, however, let's remember that we've talked about blood in a different way. (Read bible verses from top) When Jesus met with the disciples for the last supper, he had them eat bread and drink wine to remember what it is he was about to do. But the elements they ate didn't have to give them an image of torture, beating and death. Jesus came to give us life. Jesus' story is about us getting life even when we get things wrong. Jesus story is about him loving us even though we fail. Jesus story is about life to the fullest. Instead of looking to gore and death, let's remember that Jesus came to give us life -- not death. And blood is something we need to live -- **without** it we die.

Here are four words to remember - Remember and Celebrate together.