***McQuiston Memorial Presbyterian Church***

***Discipleship Group Bible Study & Discussion Questions***

***Week commencing 24th February 2013.***

**Passages for Study :- Luke 22:7-23 & Matthew 28:16-20**

**Supplementary Reading:- Genesis 17; 1st Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 16:22-34 & Galatians 3:26-29**

**INTRODUCTION**

**Sacrament is not a biblical word but comes from the Latin word “sacramentum” which means an oath or promise.**

**The sacraments are visible signs which remind us of the covenant God made with humanity usually referred to as the *Covenant of Grace*. As people we are unable to keep this covenant and so rule ourselves out of its promises and benefits. Jesus however perfectly observed the conditions of the Covenant and we, through faith in him (sometimes shortened to “in him”), are included in the Covenant promises. God didn’t have to do this but does so in His grace.**

**In our denomination; The Presbyterian Church, there are two sacraments and both were instituted by Jesus himself. These are The Lord’s Supper (Communion) and Baptism. The Old Testament equivalent of these sacraments are The Passover, and circumcision**

**The Lord’s Supper**

* What is being remembered in the Lord’s Supper? (Luke 22)
* What do you think is signified by the name communion that is also given to the Lord’s supper?
* What is anticipated by the Lord’s supper (Revelation 19:9)?
* Given that the Lord’s Supper looks back in remembrance and forward in anticipation are we too solemn when we share Communion or not seriously enough; how does it build fellowship, and what place has celebration in the sacrament?

**Baptism**

* What does baptism signify?
* A profession of faith is always associated with baptism in the New Testament. In the Presbyterian denomination and the reformed tradition believers and their children receive the sign of baptism. Do you think that our members know and understand :-

1. That adults who come to faith and have not before been baptised can and should be baptised as adults in our denomination?
2. The significance of the vows asked of parents and what parents are saying about themselves?

**The questions asked of parents are**

***In presenting your child for Baptism do you profess your faith in God as your Creator and Father, in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, and in the Holy Spirit as your Sanctifier and Guide?***

***Will you by God’s help, provide and Christian home, and bring up your child in the worship and teaching of the church, so that your child may come to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour?***

* As you know during the sacrament of Baptism the congregation is also asked a question concerning our role in witnessing to and caring for the children of our church. Do you think we take this seriously enough and what real and practical steps can we take to be faithful to our vows?