

## Devotion #9

### Holy Bread

#### **GATHER THE PLAYERS AND HAVE THEM SETTLE**

#### **READ THE SCRIPTURE**

David asked, "What have you on hand (to eat)? Give me five loaves (of bread), or whatever you can find." But the priest replied to David, "I have no ordinary bread on hand, only holy bread; if the men [are ritually pure], you may eat some of that." David answered the priest: "We [are indeed ritually pure]. Whenever I go on a journey, all the young men are consecrated-even for a secular journey. All the more so today, when we are consecrated at arms [in the king's service]." So the priest gave him holy bread, for no other bread was on hand except the showbread which had been removed from the Lord's presence ... -1 Samuel 21:4-7 (please note that anything in ( ) above is added by me to clarify and anything in [ ] is where I changed the words of the Scripture to get the gist of what was happening)

#### **USE QUESTIONS BELOW TO DISCUSS THE SCRIPTURE**

Note: The Jews had a room in the Temple called the Holy of Holies where God's very presence was. In that room was kept what they called showbread which was to show the face of God and wine for libations or toasts. For us Catholics we see the Eucharist prefigured here...God's true presence in the form of bread and wine. David and his soldiers eat this bread to be strengthened for a battle they will soon be forced to fight.

1. What was David looking for and why?

-he was looking for food for himself and his men

2. What did the priest tell David he had to eat?

-"holy bread" which was called showbread

3. Does the phrase "holy bread" make you think of anything?

-going to communion (when the players offer this answer please tell them they are correct, but help them to use the term Eucharist. For example, "Yes, when you go to communion and receive the Eucharist." Help the players understand that this "holy bread" in this scripture wasn't Eucharist as we know it, but rather it reminds us of Eucharist.)

4. The priest did give David one condition before he could give him the holy bread. What was it?

-David and his men had to be pure.

5. How do you help to make yourself more pure before you receive the holy bread of the Eucharist?

-let the kids give lots of answers. If none of them give the answer of going to Confession you may please add something like, "One of the ways we can become more pure to receive the holy bread or the Eucharist, is to go to Confession and be washed clean, or purified from any of our sin."

6. How can we help ourselves stay pure when we are on the court (on the field)?

- let the players offer ideas such as "I remember to show respect to the other team", etc.

#### **PRAY IN THESE OR SIMILAR WORDS, OR INVITE A PLAYER TO LEAD PRAYER**

Jesus we thank you for giving us the holy bread of the Eucharist. Please send us your Holy Spirit to help us prepare and purify our hearts to welcome you into them. Give us the courage to battle temptation and to fight to keep ourselves pure so that we may welcome you joyfully when you come to us. Amen.