

This guide is designed to help prepare you for your next group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

1. Name something in your life that you are unashamed of? Why do you find yourself being able to always talk about it?

Digging In

Read Luke 7:36-50

Jesus has been going throughout Judea, preaching in synagogues, healing people and teaching to large crowds. One day a teacher of the Law, a Pharisee, invites him to share a meal in his home.

1. In verses 36-39, how is the “woman of the city” described by Luke? Based on the text, how do you think she feels about herself?
2. What is significant about her crashing a dinner party and bringing an expensive gift to pour on Jesus?
3. Read verse 39. Notice the Pharisee's response to this woman. What is his understanding of sin? What is his understanding of himself? The text says, “the Pharisee said to himself.” Why does Jesus allow us to get into the Pharisee's head? How does this apply to us?
4. Jesus gives Simon the Pharisee a mini parable in verses 41-43. Why do you think Jesus tells this story?
5. As soon as Jesus finishes the story, he turns to the woman and talks to Simon. How does Jesus see the woman? How does Jesus see the Pharisee? Why does Jesus show a distinct separation between the two?

6. Read verse 49. By the end of the story, Simon's judgement wasn't just towards the woman anymore – it was directed at Jesus. The Pharisee's understanding of sin, and who forgives sin, was different than Jesus' definition. Why does God want us to see this distinction? How does it apply to your understanding of your own sin?
7. Jesus says in verse 50 that "the woman's faith has made her well." Her faith made her respond out of love to worship at Jesus' feet. She was unashamed of what Jesus had done for her. Read **Romans 1:16**. What are you ashamed of when it comes to Jesus saving you?
8. Which person in this story do you identify with more?

Taking it Home

1. Has your own self-righteousness (thinking more highly of yourself than you ought) ever interfered with your forgiveness towards someone?
2. Evaluate your own heart and your love for Jesus. When was the last time your worship of Jesus cost you something?

Praise / Prayer Requests

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