

**Instructions:**

Group leaders, take some time before your gathering to look over these questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you pick 3-5 questions to discuss that pertain to your group's unique style and needs.



**Series description:**

In Jesus' time, there was a long list of "outsiders" - people who for one reason or another weren't supposed to be close to God. But Jesus changed all that. Luke's gospel is a story of Jesus going to the margins of society to share good news with those who were overlooked, forgotten, and excluded. That is good news to anyone who, from time to time, feels like they may not belong. And it is a challenge for the church today to go and do likewise.

**Message description:**

In Luke 7:36–50, a sinful woman washes and anoints Jesus' feet at the house of Simon the Pharisee. While Simon silently condemns the woman, Jesus tells a parable about two forgiven debts to show that those who experience great forgiveness often respond with great love. The woman's actions, though socially shocking, are reframed by Jesus as an expression of gratitude for forgiveness.

Throughout the gospel of Luke, Jesus challenges the norms, customs, and powers of his day to show us how to see people as God sees them. This week, we see how Jesus included and valued women, welcoming them as disciples and participants in his mission. All of us, like the woman in the story, depend on God's grace and are called to respond with love, gratitude, and a commitment to building a community where everyone belongs in the movement of Jesus.

**Scripture: Luke 7:36-50**

**Questions based on this week's teaching:**

1. In the story from Luke 7:36–50, why do you think the woman's actions made the people at the dinner uncomfortable? What does this reveal about the social expectations of the time?
2. Jesus contrasts Simon's response to the woman's response. What does the parable about the two forgiven debts teach us about the relationship between forgiveness and love?
3. The biblical witness and example of Christ shows that women were included as disciples in Jesus' ministry. How does this challenge or shape our understanding of leadership and participation of women in the church today?
4. What might it look like in your daily life to respond to God's forgiveness with the same kind of gratitude and love the "sinful woman" showed?