



# PORTRAITS

## Group Guide



Luke 7:36-50

36 When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. 37 A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. 38 As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

39 When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner." 40 Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," he said. 41 "Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?" 43 Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

44 Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. 45 You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. 46 You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. 47 Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little." 48 Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." 49 The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" 50 Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

## Simon & the Immoral Woman // August 25, 2024

- Read Luke 7:36-50. As you do, try to imagine yourself in this scene.
  - What about the situation makes you curious...you would want to know more? Explain why.
  - What about the situation makes you uncomfortable? Why?
  - What about the situation inspires you? Again, why?
- Read vs. 39 again. In this one verse, Simon passes judgment on both Jesus and the woman. Lyndon suggested that Simon missed an opportunity to be curious at this moment, and instead defaulted to judgment.
  - What attitudes, emotions or strongly held beliefs do you think stood in the way of Simon being curious in this moment?
  - How do you think this story could have been different if Simon had stopped long enough to ask more honouring questions of both Jesus and the woman?
  - Make a list of honouring questions that he could have asked that may have helped him have a more compassionate and less judgmental response to both.
- In Jesus' parable (vs.41,42) Jesus makes it clear that there are two debtors. It was pretty obvious Jesus was placing the woman into the debtor category, but do you think Jesus was including Simon there too? Why or why not? Some would even go as far as to say Simon's posture and attitude might put him into the 500 denarii category. Would you agree or disagree? Why?
- Read vs. 47. The woman's actions are identified by Jesus as a response to forgiveness, not an attempt to acquire it. This is further supported by Jesus' statement in vs. 50, "Your faith has saved you." Is this supported in scripture? Pool your Bible knowledge and see how many other passages you can find that would support the belief that salvation is not earned by gifted in response to faith. Don't rush through this part but be thorough in your discussion and exploration.
- Which debtor do you identify more closely with? (Simon or the woman) How does the phrase "Paid in Full" affect how you view yourself, your need, and your relationship with Jesus? How does it affect how you view others, especially those you are prone to judge? What are some practical steps from this study that will help you judge less and love more?





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## [LEADERS NOTES]

### RESOURCES TO HELP YOU FOLLOW JESUS

- [centralheights.ca/followjesus](https://centralheights.ca/followjesus)

### STORIES

- We love hearing how God moves in people's lives. If you or anyone in your group has a story and would be willing to share, we'd love to hear it and celebrate with you. You can share your story by emailing [stories@centralheights.ca](mailto:stories@centralheights.ca)

### MESSAGE Video and Audio can be found at:

<https://www.centralheights.ca/currentseries>