



SDG Discussion Guide

Luke 7:36-50

September 8, 2019

For Starters:

What is one special gift you've received from your children, parents or close family member?

What's a memorable dinner you experienced? What made it memorable?

What parties do you enjoy? Dislike? Why?

Guideline: The following is meant to provide an approach for further interaction with the respective sermon text and *surrounding passage*. Feel free to forward to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find this write up in print on that Sunday.

First, as you can, read aloud the selected passage in your group. If you have time, read it aloud a second time - from a different Bible translation. If you have time, read it aloud a third time - from an even different Bible translation.

Before you begin your discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together and prayed, what points and questions arise from your group? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these points and questions. Explore and see how God may give guidance in the discussion. The following are further questions you may use to guide your interaction with the text.

1. What risk was the "sinful woman" taking in coming to the house of Simon, the Pharisee? What does this tell you about her state of mind?
2. What is your impression of Simon? What do you think Jesus' purpose was in telling the parable in verses 41-43? Why didn't he just accuse Simon of not loving enough?
3. What does Jesus see in this woman that Simon does not? How does this affect Jesus' actions toward her? In this passage, what seems to be Jesus' main concern? Simon's concern?
4. Who do you think was a greater sinner, the woman or Simon? Why? How important is it to this woman that Jesus loves and forgives her?
5. How difficult is it for you to express your love in a relationship with Jesus and why?
6. What have you found to be the hardest thing about dealing with sin and failure? Admitting it to yourself? Asking for forgiveness? Receiving forgiveness? Feelings of guilt and shame?
7. What needs to happen for you to begin to experience the kind of forgiveness this woman felt? Take an honest look at your life? Talk to a trusted someone who may understand and sympathize? Stop listening to the "Pharisees" who express condemnation? Accept the forgiveness Jesus has already offered? Other? Elaborate.
8. What have you learned from this story that you could apply this week?

Dear God, show us who we can identify with most in this story. Show us where we may need forgiveness and healing from our past and to come to you to ask it and receive it. Show us where we may have a tendency to be judgmental, and humble us to seek you about this area. Show us where hypocritical attitudes may make us angry; transform these attitudes around us. Allow us to experience and know anew of your great love for us this week. And, show us how to respond to it in all we will meet in these days ahead. In your name we pray, amen.