



## SDG Discussion Guide

Luke 7:36-50

September 15, 2019

For Starters:

Tell about a time in your life when you were incredibly thankful or relieved.

Tell about a time when you were desperate or especially gracious or generous. What do you remember or what did you learn?

What are some characteristics of a good dinner host, or a good host in general?

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.

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. Can you remember a time when you made a big mistake or hurt someone close to you? What did that feel like? What was the response of the person involved?
2. Can you remember a time when you were forgiven of something? What did it feel like to experience the forgiveness - to know you had been forgiven of that which had concerned you? How did it change your relationship with that person? How did it affect your relationship with God if at all?
3. How is the woman in the passage described? Look closely at what she does. What different emotions does she express? How do you think she feels about herself?
4. What kind of person would "the sinful woman" be if this were a similar scene at UCM? What would be the response of the congregation? Would the "the sinful woman" or "the outsider" be welcome inside UCM? Why or why not?
5. At verse 47, what is the response that Jesus wants in those whom he forgives? Do you think this characterizes the lives of those around you who are believers in Jesus, forgiven by him? What factors contribute to people growing passive in their faith?
6. What is the significance of Jesus' words in verse 48? Since only God can forgive sins, and Jesus forgave sins, what is he saying about himself? How do the guests respond (v 49)?
7. How do you think the woman must have felt in verse 50? How did she show faith? According to the witness of the woman, what is true faith in Jesus?
8. How does this passage encourage you or challenge you or both? What will you do about it this week?

Jesus can recognize what is present in the woman and Simon. Jesus sees the movement of grace in the "bad woman" and the stiff resistance of the "good man." Here, before Jesus, let us pray that we may notice in our life where God is already at work... and have the grace to yield