

Home Groups | Week of November 1, 2015
Luke 7:36-50 | Parable of the Moneylender and Two Debtors

Ice breaker question:

Who is the most affectionate person in your family?

Discuss:

1. What would you have thought as you watched the woman anoint Jesus with her tears, kiss his feet, and wiped his feet with her hair? Was it appropriate?
2. The Pharisee sees the woman in the story just as a sinner. The other guests probably agree. Jesus forgives her of “many sins.” What does Jesus see in the woman that others do not?
3. The Pharisee did not give Jesus water for his feet nor welcome him with a kiss. Today, this would be like inviting someone to dinner, but not welcoming them, offering to take their coat, or offering them a place to sit. These actions are inhospitable. Are there ways that our actions are not hospitable to Jesus or to others around us today?
4. The woman in the story shares very emotionally and with risk and abandon. She uses her tears to anoint Jesus’ feet and kisses them. Many of us in our culture don’t show that much emotion. What obstacles may sometimes hold you back from fully worshipping Jesus?
5. Describe to your group a worship experience that meant a lot to you.
6. What is the most loving thing you’ve seen done for Jesus? When have you shown your love for Jesus with action and emotion?
7. Do you struggle with believing Jesus has forgiven you?

Telling Our Stories:

Share more about your stories this week with your group by answering the question: “What have you been experiencing in prayer?”

Prayer:

In your group, close with the Lord’s Prayer. Focus on the words, “forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.” Discuss briefly if this phrase has new meaning after this week’s study.

Additionally, keep the following prayer requests from our church family in mind as you close.

- > Please pray for the Kairos team serving at Pendleton Correctional Facility this weekend. Continue to pray this week for the prisoners who were involved in the weekend.
- > Please pray for healing for Jim Jett.

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Ways to serve with your Home Group over the holiday season:

- > Operation Christmas Child | Contact: Sarah Gray [sarahgray3@yahoo.com]
- > Community Assistance Ministries | Contact: Christy Tharp [ttharp9582@icloud.com]
- > Shepherd Totes | Contact: Karyl Bierwagen [karylbierrwagen@gmail.com]

Background for home group leaders:

Last week’s parable and this week’s parable both focus on forgiveness. God forgives us and calls us to forgive others. Jesus taught his disciples to pray, saying: “Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.” Receiving and giving forgiveness is powerful. May we learn from Jesus’ parables, and from Jesus himself, how to forgive and how to receive forgiveness.

[Question 1] The sinful woman cleaning Jesus’ feet with her tears may have been very awkward. In the ancient Middle East, it was a little more normal for a stranger to come into the home of the dinner party. But to shed tears, and wipe someone’s feet with her hair was very intimate and would cause a scene, as it would today. It was remarkable for her to show her love to Jesus – even in an unconventional way.

[Question 2] Jesus sees that the woman has great love. She shows her love openly, despite what others may think. What would it be like for us to show our love for God in such an uninhibited manner?

[Question 3] We may consciously or unconsciously treat people differently depending on their status in society. If someone is poor or poorly dressed today, we may treat them a little differently than the person who looks like they fit in to our suburban culture. Jesus showed tremendous openness and inclusion for those who were different, or those who were sick, lonely, or ostracized. He loved them. We are called to love as well.

[Question 4] We know that we love because God first loved us. When we accept and acknowledge God’s love for us through Jesus, it becomes easier, but not easy, to love others with the love of Jesus in us and working through us. Then we can “let our hair down” and love a little more openly and boldly. Some obstacles might be fear of not knowing what to say or do, or wondering what people might think of us. Will they think we are weird or “Jesus freaks?”

[Question 5] Help your group think through a time of worship that was very moving. It may have been a different setting or had different meaning than a normal Sunday at ZPC.

[Question 6] Can your group think of some loving actions that are equivalent to the woman in the story? Who do you know who loves with some abandon? Feel free to tell your story here of how you care for others, or struggle with loving others, as an example.

[Question 7] This is a good question to help your group share openly about their thoughts on forgiveness and where they stand with Jesus. If needed, you as the