

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

# soul food

When a meal with Jesus  
was more than food

### OPENING UP



How do you build relationships with your neighbors? Have you had a neighbor move from stranger to acquaintance? Or from acquaintance to friend?

### TEXT



#### A Sinful Woman Forgiven | Luke 7:36-50

<sup>36</sup> One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. <sup>37</sup> And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, <sup>38</sup> and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. <sup>39</sup> Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner." <sup>40</sup> And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher."

<sup>41</sup> "A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. <sup>42</sup> When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?" <sup>43</sup> Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly." <sup>44</sup> Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. <sup>45</sup> You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. <sup>46</sup> You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. <sup>47</sup> Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." <sup>48</sup> And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." <sup>49</sup> Then those who were at table with him began to say among<sup>[a]</sup> themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" <sup>50</sup> And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

### MESSAGE OUTLINE



**Big Idea:** Our response to Jesus reveals our grasp of His grace

**Key Question:** Is Jesus Good Enough to Eat with You?

1. The Woman: Grace received from Jesus results in great love for Jesus. (vv. 36 – 38)
2. The Pharisee: Grace refused from Jesus results in little love for Jesus. (vv. 39 – 47)
3. Our actions of love reveal a faith that saves. (vv. 48 – 50)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



- Have you ever witnessed a scene like Chester describes at the beginning of Chapter 2? (p. 37-38) What is your honest reaction to that scene?

*The point of the story of the sinful woman in Luke 7, according to Chester, is to reveal our hearts. It's as though Jesus is saying to us, "If you look down on others, you love little, because you understand so little of your sin and my grace." (p. 45)*

- How do you view your sin and Jesus' grace?
- How does a proper view of our sin and Jesus' grace affect the way we treat others?
- Read pages 47-49 in A Meal with Jesus and share what meals can do according to Chester?
- In Luke 7:36-38, we see a woman's bold interaction with Jesus. What do the woman's actions reveal to us about what a love for Jesus might look like in our lives?
- From the sermon, which areas are you prone to think of yourselves as better than others? Where do you see self-righteousness in your own heart?

## LIFE CHALLENGE



So, how do you view yourself today? Are you like Simon or the woman? If you want to know the answer to that question, just look at how you have responded to Jesus because **Our response to Jesus reveals our grasp of his grace.** Additionally, because of your grasp of His grace, how can you apply that to your life? To the way you interact with neighbors or co-workers who might not know Jesus?

## CLOSING PRAYER



God thank you for Jesus and for the grace you have expressed to us through His sacrifice. Help us to remember your grace each day and help us to be expressions of your grace to those who don't know you. Amen