

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

## Week 4: Giving Changes People

### SERIES OVERVIEW

Our 7 convictions are Biblical and reveal the heart of who we are and what we do as a church. These convictions will shape and define our culture as we strive to accomplish our mission.

### CONTEXT

In Luke 7:36-50, Jesus is anointed by a sinful woman while dining at a Pharisee's house. Through this act of love, humility and generosity Jesus teaches that those who are forgiven much, love much, emphasizing the power of grace and forgiveness.

### THE BIG IDEA

#### Giving Changes People!

We believe our God is a generous God. He is a giver, not a taker, and the ultimate proof of this is found in Jesus (2 Cor 8:9). Since we are called to be imitators of God (Ephesians 5:1), we must be givers, not takers, so that his generous nature is seen in us. Therefore, we will be a people of sacrifice and generosity, believing that as we give, lives will be changed—both our lives as givers and the lives of those who receive.

### SCRIPTURE: Luke 7:36-50

36 One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. 37 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, 38 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. 39 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." 40 And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher." 41 "A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?" 43 Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly." 44 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. 45 You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. 46 You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. 47 Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." 48 And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." 49 Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" 50 And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

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#### ICE BREAKER

Share a time when you gave generously to something or someone and it changed you. How did God use this to change your heart?

#### GROUP DISCUSSION

Read THE BIG IDEA on page 1 above. How have you seen our church live out this conviction? (Think about All To Him)

Read Luke 7:36-50 as a group.

What is one thing that stood out to you from the sermon and why do you think God wants you to remember this truth?

In verses 36-38, what's the significance of Jesus having dinner with a Pharisee AND the social ramifications of a "woman of the city" showing up and washing Jesus' feet with an expensive ointment and her hair? What do both of these interactions tell us about Jesus?

In verses 39-43 we learn that not only did Jesus know who this woman was, he knew what Simon was thinking. What thoughts do you have about "those people" in your world, that you need Jesus to reveal to you and remind you they are image bearers that He came to save?

How does seeing ourselves as stewards of what God has given us instead of owners, lead us to being generous instead of trying to hoard our money and stuff?

What does it look like for you to take on the heart posture (*when you love him much, you give much*) of the woman?

#### Discussion continued.

We learn from the parable that all of us owe a debt to God that we can't pay on our own -- our sin. Which debtor are you in the parable? 1. You're guilty in a 500 denarii way (*done evil things, you know you're not a good person*) or 2. You're guilty in a 50 denarii way (*think you're a good person, moral, in church*)

Reality is both are guilty and in need of Jesus. How does truly knowing our depravity change our view of Jesus as Lord of our life? And how does that change our attitude and motivation to be like Jesus in our generosity?

Read verses 48-50 as a group. In verse 50 Jesus reveals the means by which he forgives, **faith**. Read Ephesians 2:8-10 and discuss how Paul solidifies Jesus' words in verse 50.

Share a time in your life when you found yourself trying to **work** for forgiveness and approval from God instead of receiving it through the finished work of Jesus on the cross.

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#### PRAYER (In gender based groups)

\*Share praises, answered prayers, and prayer requests. Pray that you and the church will have a heart posture like the woman in Luke 7 in our love for Jesus and generosity.

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