

# JESUS

through the eyes of the unlikely

## Week of February 12—Scandalous Grace<sup>1</sup>

### **Overview:**

Who do *you* see when you look at Jesus? Teacher? Miracle worker? Divine Son of God? All of these? Our view of Jesus is shaped by our own perspective, our church history, and our study of scripture. Over the next several weeks, we will view Jesus from Luke's perspective, through the eyes of some unlikely characters he met while on earth. We'll discover themes like identity, power, surrender, forgiveness, redemption, and many more. We pray that as you see Jesus in fresh ways, you are drawn to follow Jesus more closely and become more like him every day.<sup>2</sup>

### **Group Objectives:**

#### ***Relationships and Life Transformation are the primary purpose of community groups***

- Reflect on this past Sunday's message and other devotional reading.
- Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members.
- Consider how "the great reversal" Luke uses turns our kingdom expectations upside down.

### **DNA statement(s) tie-in:**

- *We are on mission to reach one more*—Every person matters to God, so every person matters to us. God invites every one of us to join him in his great mission to reach one more—one more coworker, neighbor, family member, and friend.

### **Conversation Starters:**

- Have you ever been surprised by someone being welcomed to a dinner party who "didn't fit in"? How did you respond, and what did you learn?

### **Listening to God**

- Where did you see God at work last week? How were you able to join him?

### **Learning from God's Word: Bible Study Discussion**

*Last week we learned about how Jesus opened doors for women that were culturally closed to them. In this week's story, we meet an unlikely woman and a respected Pharisee with whom Jesus connects at a dinner party. How does this story expand on last week's lesson of Jesus' elevation of women? Why should this matter to us today?*

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<sup>1</sup> This week's lesson was written by Dawn Gentry and edited by Teresa Baumbach.

<sup>2</sup> For a monthly reading and devotional guide to accompany this series in Luke, go to [cccomaha.info](http://cccomaha.info).

- **Read Luke 7:36-39**
  - As you read this passage (or remember from the sermon), what about the woman stood out to you?
  - Have you ever been an uninvited guest at a party (or hosted a party where an uninvited guest showed up)? How did you feel at the time?
  
- **Read Luke 7:40-48**
  - How does this parable bring focus to Luke's goals of the story? Who is to learn from or benefit from this parable?
  - How do Simon and his guests respond to this parable and the event they witnessed?
  
- **Read Luke 7:49-50**
  - How does Jesus respond to the woman? Why is this surprising for the culture of the day?
  - Luke will later tell a parable about two sons and their respective responses to their father (Luke 15). Luke doesn't make clear how Simon responds to Jesus. What do you imagine about Simon? Does he believe that Jesus can forgive sins and follow Jesus? Or does he "refuse to go in" to the party offered by the father? Why do you think this?

### **Leaning into Obedience:**

- Put yourself in the story. Where do you imagine yourself? Eating at the table? Hosting the event? Sitting on the margins?
  - How does this impact your understanding of the story?
  - Based on this understanding, what is Jesus reminding **you** to do? To believe?
- What do we learn about Jesus? Why is this important to us today?
- How do you sense God calling you to respond to these passages?
  - Is there an example to follow? A command to obey?
- How can the group encourage you this week as you respond?

### **Prayer Prompts:**

- Invite members of the group to share personal prayer requests.
- Allow time for silent reflection on the following questions.
  - *Who is on the margins? How can I invite them to the table of grace?*
  - *How has Jesus forgiven ME? How will I respond in worship and gratitude?*
- Use one of these songs as a closing prayer of worship and gratitude.
  - "Were It Not for Grace" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CeRHYY2I-PU>
  - "Perfectly Loved" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WfUkEgG5rEk>
  - "Amazing Grace" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-4NFvI5U9w>
  - "My Lips Will Praise You" - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Tk60zg3WZM&list=OLAK5uy\\_m1T7Pbeq6MVa-ese1np63YJNCqb29P3Bs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Tk60zg3WZM&list=OLAK5uy_m1T7Pbeq6MVa-ese1np63YJNCqb29P3Bs)