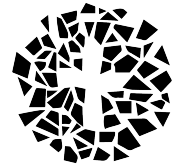


# INTRODUCING JESUS

LUKE 7:36-50

Community Group Study Guide  
Week of August 19, 2018



MOSAIC BOSTON  
LOVE. JESUS. SIMPLE.

This week, we looked at Luke 7:36-50 where Jesus had dinner at the house of a Pharisee named Simon. This dinner would have actually been a party or a banquet, and was likely held in “honor” of Jesus, as was customary when a traveling preacher came to a Jewish town. Jesus had been teaching and performing miracles in the area and had drawn a lot of attention. Throughout the story, we begin to see that the real purpose of this party was not to honor Jesus, but to investigate Him. The Pharisees were looking for a reason to dismiss him, and for a moment they thought they found the evidence they needed.

We’re told that the woman who walked in was “a sinner” and most likely a prostitute. Weeping, and repentant, she washed Jesus’ feet with her tears and anointed them with perfume. Simon scoffed to himself, thinking that if Jesus were really who he claimed to be, he would have known who this woman was and scolded her for what she did. Instead, Jesus turned the tables and put Simon in the hot seat. In the end, Jesus proved that He not only knew everything about this woman, but He even knew what Simon was thinking. Even more, He claimed to have the authority to forgive her sins. Luke shows us that Jesus is the Divine Messianic Prophet they were looking for, He just wasn’t exactly what they expected.

The big idea of this story is that there are two ways that people can run from God, but there is only one way for us to return back to God. The sinful woman ran from God into a life of self-indulgent sin, but Simon the Pharisee ran from God into a life of self-righteous religious works. The bad news is that no amount of religious works are enough to earn God’s favor. The good news is that both pharisees and prostitutes can be welcomed home by God if they repent and put their faith in Jesus Christ.

A massive reversal of expectations takes place in this story as Simon, the religious pharisee, turns out to be the one far from God, and the woman, who was a sinner, ends up being the example for us to follow. She loved Jesus so much because she was aware of how much she’d been loved by Him. Luke wants us to see Jesus as the unexpected King of an unexpected Kingdom, and that in His Kingdom are some unexpected citizens. Jesus taught us that in His Kingdom, the first would be last and the last would be first. Some of the people we most expect to get it, will never get it. Some of the people we least expect, will be the ones that do. In Jesus’ Kingdom, the distance between God is not determined by our background, our ethnicity, our moral or ethical merit, or our social or economic standing. The distance between God and man is simply repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. We are accepted by God not because of our own merits, but because of His merit. He takes our sin and shame to the cross so that we can be covered in His perfect righteousness.

## DISCUSSION GOALS

### Head

To understand how religion can actually keep us from God just as much as sin.

### Heart

To trust that Jesus loves us much and has proven this love on the cross.

### Hands

To trust that Jesus is able to save us and anyone else through the power of the Gospel.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CG Hosts:** A lot of people are moving around this summer and we’re in need of many new CG hosts. Please pray for this in your groups and let your CG Coach know of anyone willing to host a CG.

### Membership or Baptism:

Contact  
[admin@mosaicboston.com](mailto:admin@mosaicboston.com) to sign up for our next membership class or learn more about baptism.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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### ICE BREAKER

Describe your most memorable birthday party.

#### Read Luke 7:36-50

- What were some things you found surprising about this text, or what might have been surprising to the original readers in the early church?
- As we read about Jesus' interaction with these two people, did it change, challenge, or deepen your understanding of God? If so, how?
- How do we see the Gospel in this text, or why do we need the Gospel to make sense of what's going on?
- How does this story challenge us or encourage us as we aim to share the Gospel and be missionaries to our city (at school, work, and in our neighborhoods)?
- How do we see Jesus upholding both truth and love throughout this text? Why is it important for us to follow this example as we share the Gospel with people in our lives?
- There are a lot of Christians and a lot of churches that shy away from talking about sin and repentance. Why do you think the idea of repentance makes people uncomfortable, and how might this passage help us overcome that mindset?
- How might this passage help us and inform the way we relate to one another in Christian community?

#### Read Luke 15

- What are some of the similarities you see between Luke 7 and Luke 15? How might Luke 15 deepen our understanding or appreciation for the story of Simon and the sinful woman?