

# SMALL GROUPS

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Winter Semester - Week 2

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*Remember, these questions are just tools for discussion. You don't need to 'get through them all.' Use the questions that are helpful, and skip the ones that are not. And let the conversation flow naturally.*

#### OPTIONAL ICEBREAKER(S)

- a) Do you prefer cold weather with the sun shining, or warmer temperatures with an overcast sky?
- b) Do you wear perfumes or scented products? What do you wear?

#### PASSAGE AND DISCUSSION

**Read Mark 14:1-11**

- a) What immediately stands out to you after reading this text?
- b) Read **v1-2**. What does this verse tell us about the political climate of Jerusalem at the time?
- c) Read **v3**. Is it your default to praise the woman for her sacrifice, or is your initial reaction to see her gesture as wasteful?
- d) The woman broke the bottle, signifying that she was 'all-in' in devotion of Christ. When you think about your walk with God, would you say that you have an all-in faith, or would you say that your devotion is somewhat reserved?
- e) What is an area of your life that you feel you need to offer more of to Jesus?
- f) In the woman's act of worship, she likely gave her financial security. It was an act of trust as well as an act of adoration. How are our trust in Jesus and worship of Him connected?
- g) Read **v4-5**. The text mentions that the perfume was very costly - worth over a year's wages. Translate the cost of the perfume into something you have in your possession today. How easily would it be to give that to God?

- h) What are the things we are prompted to do as an act of worship, that provoke a strong response from people?
- i) Jesus' response shows us that he does not see things the way we see them. Read **1 Samuel 16:7**. How would our perception of things change, if we saw through the lenses of God? What would we value more? What would we value less?
- j) Read **v7**. Do you think Jesus is prompting us not to care for the poor? What is the point Jesus was making? Read the passage he is quoting, in **Deuteronomy 15:11** for help.
- k) In **v8**, Jesus declares that the woman was preparing His body for burial, referring to his upcoming death on the cross. She could only know this if it was revealed to her by the Holy Spirit. What should we do to be inspired by the Holy Spirit to worship with all we have?
- l) How is this woman's sacrifice symbolic of the sacrifice that Jesus makes for us on the cross?
- m) What are the differences between the woman's and Judas Iscariot's attitudes toward Jesus? Make a bit of a chart, and compare and contrast their attitudes and actions.
- n) Jesus promised that the woman's display of worship would always be remembered. How can our worship and sacrifice make an impact beyond our own lifetime?

### **TAKE IT HOME (OPTIONAL IDEAS FOR RESPONSE THIS WEEK)**

- a) Think about and pray for the one person that you're committing to introduce to Jesus this year. Write their name on the card you got on Sunday.
- b) This week, reflect on what we have to give as a church? How are we being invited to worship Jesus?

### **OPTIONAL IDEAS FOR PRAYER TIME**

- a) This Sunday, each one of us was challenged to pray and think for someone we know that does not know Jesus personally. Remind your small group to commit to prayer for this person.
- b) Ask your small group to pray and prepare their hearts for our time praying together on Friday.

## **OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW & GO**

**Prayer Summit: January 27th** Our next church-wide Prayer Summit is on Friday, January 27, at 7pm.

Come together with your small group. This is a time that we as a church get together in prayer, so please ask the people in your small group to make this a priority this week.

**Men's Study:** began on January 15th and meets on Sundays at 9 a.m. and Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Whether you attended Seasons 1 or 2 or not, we invite you to join us for the 3rd and final season of Men's Fraternity. Together, we will explore and discuss this deeply practical study.

**Daybreak:** Tuesday Jan 24th at 9am and Sunday, January 29th at 9am. This winter, the women are invited to a Bible study in the book of Ruth and travel through her journey of unbearable loss, redeeming love, and divine legacy. This study delves into the virtuous character of Ruth, her unique relationship with her mother-in-law Naomi, and her blossoming love with Boaz. If you've ever felt devastated, struggled as a stranger, longed to be loved, or wept along the way, you'll find a loyal sister in Ruth.

**Membership Class:** January 28th at 10 a.m. We believe membership is an important way for new people to identify their commitment to Christ and His work through this local church and its mission.