

Our **Virtual**

# PowerGroup

**THE TABLE**  
Week 1 Study

## Icebreaker

How do you feel about feet? Are you willing to touch someone else's feet? What about pushing your fingers between their toes?

## Passage 1 Luke 7:36-38

While Jesus was eating at the home of Simon the Pharisee, an unlikely person expressed profound gratitude for His love. Simon's response to this expression of gratitude led Jesus to share a parable illustrating both the immeasurable forgiveness God offers and the only natural response to that forgiveness.

**Reflection** If you could see Jesus face-to-face, what is the first way you would express gratitude for your salvation? How did the woman do this?

What do you find most shocking about the woman's actions?

What risk was this "sinful woman" taking in coming to the house of Simon, the Pharisee? What does this tell us about her?

How might our worship be different if we were more concerned about honoring Jesus than we were about the thoughts of others?

## Passage 2 Luke 7:39-43

Contrasted with the woman's humility and thankfulness, Simon's response revealed the haughty and critical nature of his heart. Because Jesus showed compassion, Simon doubted that Jesus was a prophet and doubted that He knew the woman's background.

**Reflection** Why would Jesus allow this woman to touch him knowing what Simon thought about this woman?

How did Jesus lead Simon to a clearer understanding of the woman's motives? What was the point of the parable?

It's been said that the more we grow in our walk with Christ, the more we realize how sinful we are. Have you experienced this? How is such a realization vital to our spiritual growth?

### Passage 3 Luke 7:44-50

Jesus' parable helped Simon understand that love grows out of forgiveness. The more a person understands and appreciates his or her debt, the more that person will appreciate forgiveness. The natural response is to love the one who forgives, just as our love for Jesus grows out of having received forgiveness from Him. Jesus showed love in guiding Simon to see both the woman and her extravagant care. Jesus did not stop with emphasizing the rightness of the woman's action. He also prompted Simon to contrast his own lack of gratitude.

**Reflection** When have you treated Jesus as Simon the Pharisee treated Jesus? To what extent have you treated Jesus as the woman treated Him? What leads you to these different responses?

Because Jesus forgives us, we can put our faith in Him and experience His peace. How do you deliberately live as a person grateful for these gifts? How can we do a better job of this as a group?

What is one step you might take to cultivate a heart of gratefulness to God this week?

### Passage 4 Luke 18:9-14

In this passage we have a tax collector and a pharisee who are both praying. It is interesting how the tax collector prays a simple pray while the pharisee prays an elaborate prayer. The tax collector realizes his sin, while the pharisee does not. The tax collector's sin is exposed, but the pharisees sin of pride is hidden. Jesus is not impressed with the pharisees prayer, but exalts the tax collector.

**Reflection** How do people resemble the pharisee in the church today?

How does pride keep us from receiving what God is offering to us?

How does pride keep us from showing love to others?

What is God asking us to do in this passage?

### Application

Read Colossians 3 v 15-17. Read one sentence at a time. Read it again. Ask yourself the question "How does that help me to feel thankful?" Meditate on these words. Imagine the person who lived these words. Wouldn't you want them as a friend? This person would be at peace, constantly thankful, often singing, usually mumbling prayers of thanks under their breath throughout the day, living an adventurous life for Christ, free of others' expectations, living for an audience of one. Ready to give thanks?