Community Group Discussion Guide
"Courage to Worship Boldly" – John 12:1-11
Scott Paulson – November 1, 2026

Main thought:
Courageous worship puts Jesus first, offering Him all that we are and all that we have regardless of the cost, circumstances, or opinions of others.

Ice-Breaker

- If you could have dinner with someone from the Bible (other than Jesus), who would you choose, and what's the first question you'd ask them?
- Optional follow-up:
    - Imagine being at the dinner in John 12 with Lazarus, who had just been raised from the dead. What would you want to ask him?

Questions

1. What stood out to you most from the passage or Sunday's message? Was there something that challenged you, encouraged you, or caused you to think differently about worship?
2. Martha, Lazarus, and Mary each responded to Jesus differently through their work, witness, and worship. Which of these three do you most naturally identify with, and why? How can the way God has uniquely gifted you become an expression of worship?
3. Martha reminds us that we can become so busy doing things *for* Jesus that we miss the opportunity to be *with* Jesus. Why is it so easy to allow good things, including serving, work, family, or ministry, to crowd out our relationship with God? How can we recognize when that's happening?
4. Lazarus never speaks a word in this passage, yet his life becomes a powerful witness to Jesus. What are some practical ways our lives can demonstrate the difference Jesus has made? Where might God be calling you to live more courageously as His witness?
5. Mary poured out something worth an entire year's wages to honor Jesus, even though others criticized her. What do you think motivated such an extravagant act of worship? What might costly or courageous worship look like in our lives today?
6. Judas was physically close to Jesus but missed the opportunity to worship Him. What are some signs that we've become comfortable with giving Jesus only pieces of our lives rather than our whole life?
7. Which of the final challenges stood out to you and why?
    a. Offer Jesus what He's <u>given</u> you.
    b. Don't let <u>good</u> things crowd out the most <u>important</u> thing.
    c. Keep your eyes on <u>Jesus</u>, not on what <u>others</u> think.

Prayer: Take some time to pray for one another.