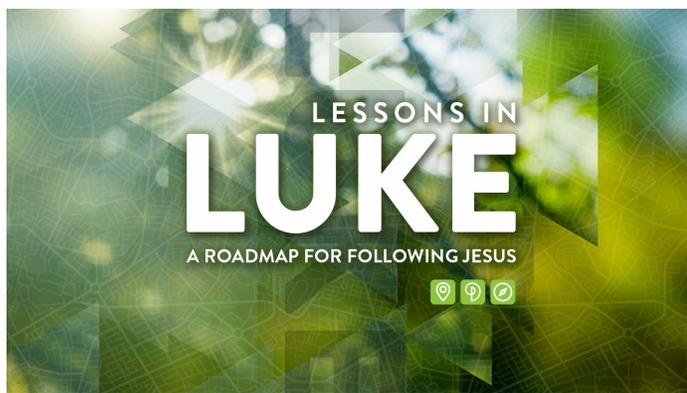


# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE  
OF PEACE**  
Called to Connect



## Gratitude-Fueled Worship

*June 13, 2021*

Jesus turns everything upside down. He blesses the “down and out” and curses the rich and the reputable. He calls us to love our enemies and not to judge our neighbors. He holds up a Roman soldier as an example of what it means to have faith. He takes our brokenness and disobedience and replaces it with the gift of God’s grace and forgiveness.

## SCRIPTURE TEXT: LUKE 7:36-50

Read the scripture text together as a group.

### BACKGROUND INFO

Simon is a Pharisee. He is a respected leader in the community. Pharisees get a bad rap in the Gospels, but their goal wasn’t to be self-righteous jerks. They loved God and they loved the nation of Israel. They believed that if the people obeyed the law, God would bless the nation. In first century, Judaism, Simon is one of the “good guys.” And then there’s the unnamed woman. She barges into the dinner party and she breaks all the rules. It’s bad enough that she’s a female in a “men’s only” gathering, but she isn’t just any woman. She is a “known sinner” and everything she does proves it. She shows her hair - a first century no-no. She touches Jesus’ feet, washes them with her tears and anoints them with oil. This is nothing less than scandalous and a complete disgrace. In first century Judaism, she is a villain.

But once again, Jesus turns it all upside down. Simon was a “good guy” because he obeyed the law, but in the Kingdom of God obedience is more than just doing the right thing; it’s a matter of the heart. And Jesus reveals that beneath Simon’s fancy clothes and pious behavior is a man with a heart problem. The unnamed woman, on the other hand, was a “villain” because she broke the law, but Jesus says that there are things that matter every bit as much as obedience. This woman knows she’s a sinner. She knows that she has much to be forgiven for, and she is overwhelmed with gratitude for the forgiveness that she received from Jesus. Grateful enough to barge into a gathering where she knows that she isn’t welcome and do things that she knows she will be judged for. And Jesus lifts up this unnamed woman, and puts Simon in his place.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share about the best dinner party you have attended or hosted. What made it so awesome?
- What is Jesus teaching us in this passage?
- How are we sometimes like Simon? How are we sometimes like the woman?
- How can we show Jesus our love and adoration for him, like the woman did?

**APPLICATION:** This week, think about what it really means for Jesus to forgive our sins. How can we shout from the rooftops in celebration?! Dance with joy. Sing with gratitude. Live with passion. Let’s celebrate!