



## LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 27th August 2023



### Luke 7:36-50 Faith, Hope and Love

#### Warm Up

What kind of people make you feel uncomfortable? The free and easy ones, the formal, uptight ones, the totally open and free ones who share it all? What does it say about you?

#### Background and context

Jesus was invited to the home of a Pharisee who wanted to find out about Jesus. Pharisees were well respected, well educated, pillars of the community, who demonstrated the best of religious life. It is likely that the woman in the story was a local prostitute, whose life was filled with trauma and abuse from others. An outcast from respectable society, she lived on the edge, in a dark world.

#### Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



**READ LUKE 7:36-50** *What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand? This could be a time to discuss and share reflections and ideas on the passage or watch a Bible project type video that helps explain things.*

1. Long, loose hair, the use of perfume, heavily made up eyes and lips were the trade marks of an ancient Middle Eastern prostitute. How does the woman use these four things as a means of worshipping Jesus ?
2. How had Simon the Pharisee failed to understand who Jesus was?
3. How does the parable Jesus told help us understand Simon's failure to respond to Jesus?
4. What can we learn about attitudes to sin through the actions of Simon and the woman?
5. The woman and Simon are pictures of the difference between faith and religion. How would you describe the difference?

#### Growing in discipleship: Practical application



6. The woman held nothing back in her worship of Jesus, because He held nothing back in rescuing her from sin. What holds you back in your worship of Jesus?
7. Are there times when the weight of past sin still holds you back? How **MUST** we respond if we want to worship Jesus with all we have?
8. What is the danger of clinging to religious practice or tradition?

#### Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.



We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.