

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE**Extravagant Grace & Love**

LUKE 7:36-50

OVERVIEW

Luke is the longest and most comprehensive of the four Gospels, presenting Jesus as the Perfect Man who came to save sinful men. Growing belief and growing opposition develop side by side. Those who believe his claims are challenged to count the cost of discipleship; those who oppose him will not be satisfied until the Son of Man hangs lifeless on a cross. But the resurrection ensures that his ministry of seeking and saving the lost will continue through his disciples once they have been equipped with the indwelling Holy Spirit. Luke reveals that Jesus is the King, and he has come to inaugurate his Kingdom. (Adapted from *Talk Through the Bible*).

REVIEW // LUKE

1. Read Luke 1:1-4
2. What is Luke's gospel about? Why did he write this narrative account?
3. What are some of the main themes we've seen running through the first seven chapters?
4. Discuss a couple ways you have been encouraged, challenged, or convicted by our meditation on Luke's Gospel.

OBSERVE & INTERPRET // LUKE 7:36-50

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God's word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

Overview/Big Idea:

- *Chapter 7:* King Jesus defies our expectations and his Kingdom redefines categories – he is powerful yet compassionate, welcoming the least of these into his Kingdom (and calls them great).
- *Verses 36-50:* Jesus is the Savior who forgives even the biggest sinners – and they respond with great love.

1. Read Luke 7. We'll focus on verses 36-50.
2. What main themes do you see running through chapter 7?
3. How do verses 36-50 fit into that overall context?
4. Identify and discuss the main characters in this passage.
 - a. Who is a Pharisee? What do we know about them?
 - b. Who is this sinful woman? What do we know about her?
5. What does this woman do to Jesus? Why?
6. How does Simon, the Pharisee, react? Why?

7. Jesus responds to Simon with a story in verses 40-43. Notice all the facts. What is the point of the story? What is the significance of the creditor's canceling the debts?
 8. How does Jesus respond to the woman?
 9. In verse 47, how does Jesus connect our understanding of sin to the depth of our love for him?
 - a. What is sin?
 - b. What is love?
 - c. What is forgiveness?
 - d. How do these three things relate to one another?
 10. What is significant about Jesus' words in verse 48? Since only God can forgive sins, and Jesus forgave sins, what is he saying about himself? How do the guests respond (verse 49)?
 11. Notice Jesus words to the woman in verse 50. How has she shown faith? What's the result of her faith. What does it mean to go in peace? Peace with who?
- General Bible study questions:
 - **God:** What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
 - **Humanity:** What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
 - **Christ:** How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
 - **Response:** How should I respond with my affections and my actions?
 - **God:** How does this passage help me hope in heaven?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: How have you been lately? No, really, how have you been? Praise God for evidence of grace. Pray for each other in areas of need/struggle.