



Smith Rock  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

# Community Group study guide

# LUKE

J E S U S   F O R   E V E R Y O N E

**For the week of  
10th of May 2020**

# What sort?



Categories are important for us, they help us more closely define and understand what we are talking about. For instance if I talk about a ball, it could mean all different things, even different shapes. It could be a football or basketball or a golf ball.

People also like to categorise by sort too; could be sports and what we play and which team we support, but it will also be along social, racial and financial sorts to name a few, as well. If someone is not "our sort" either we deem them not good enough for us, or perhaps too good for us.

What sort are you?



*36 One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table.*

*37 And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, 38 and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment.*

*39 Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner." 40 And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher."*

*41 "A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 When they could not*

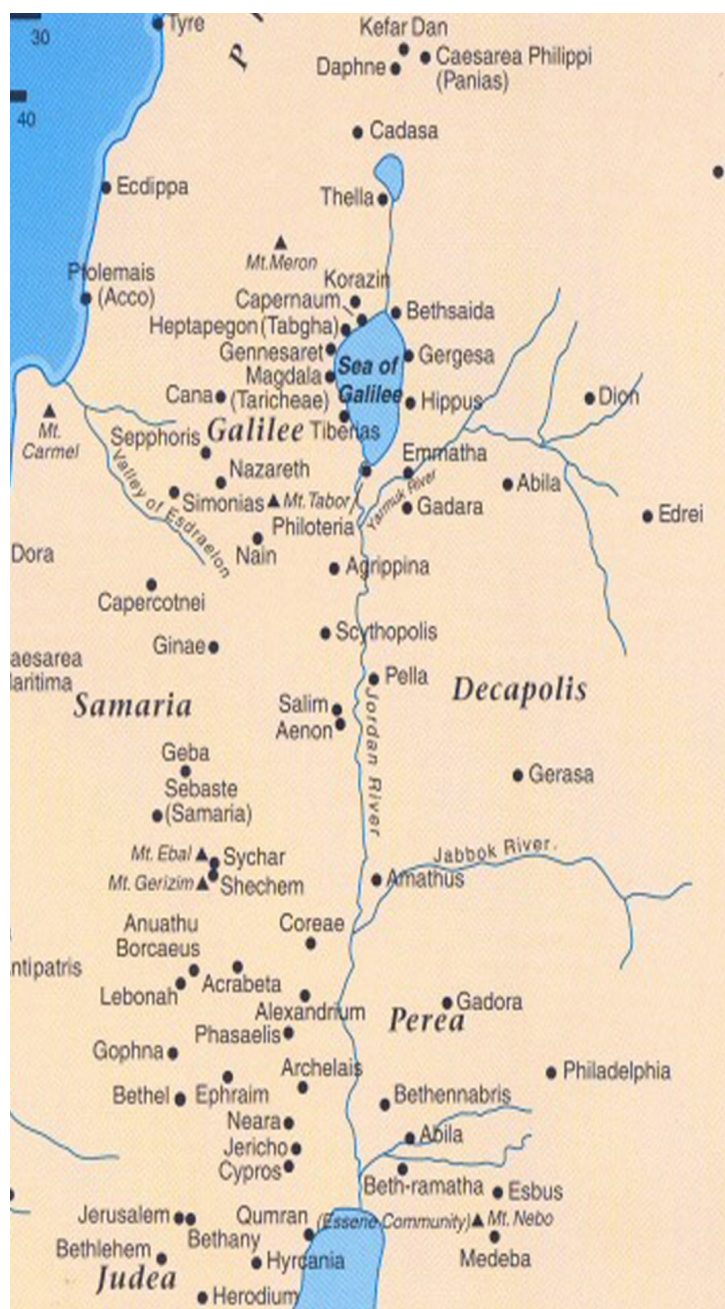
pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?" 43 Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly." 44 Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. 45 You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. 46 You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. 47 Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." 48 And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." 49 Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" 50 And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Luke 7:36–50 (ESV)

### **Commentary**

In the previous section John the Baptist had sent disciples to Jesus to ask Him if He was the "comming one" or if they should look for another. John is concerned Jesus is not living up to the expectations of the Messiah; no winnowing fork, no fiery judgement but ministering to people who in John's opinion he shouldn't. People like a centurion, and eating in the houses of known sinners like tax collectors.

But Jesus won't dance to anyone's tune just to please them. In this passage Jesus has received an invitation from a Pharisee to go to his home for a meal. Jesus takes him up on his invitation



and goes. It appears that not all Pharisees have made up their minds about Jesus, and this one it seems is one who hasn't. So Jesus arrives for the meal with other unnamed guests, but an uninvited guest turns up at the same time having learned Jesus was there. Diners would recline on their sides with their feet out behind them, and the woman starts to weep over Jesus' feet, and she lets down her hair and wipes his feet with it. She also kisses his feet and anoints them with expensive perfume that she has bought with her. Of course all of this doesn't go unnoticed by the host who is now thinking he has seen all he needs to see to make the decision Jesus definitely isn't a prophet, because if He was He would know "what sort" this woman was. Although it is not stated what her sin was, it most likely was prostitution, and what she was doing to Jesus was viewed as a sensuous erotic act. Strange women don't touch strange men unless they are "that sort."

Jesus interrupts the Pharisee's thoughts by requesting to say something to him, and we learn his name is Simon. Jesus tells a simple story; two men owe a moneylender. One owes about a year and half's worth of wages, and the other owes about a month and half's worth. The moneylender forgives both of them their debt. We need to stop right here because that to Simon would have been unfathomable; why would he do that? No sane person would do that! It was the case that some Pharisees were well off and possibly lent money themselves. Was Simon one? Then comes Jesus' question, "which one will love him the most?" It is a habit of Jesus to ask people questions, not to trick them or see if they are experts on God, but simply to make them

think and try to get them to look again at God and what is going on in their own hearts. Simon is hesitant with his answer. Does he think it is a trick, does he think Jesus is about to drop something on him? “The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt.” Jesus confirms Simon’s answer and then asks him to look again at this woman from a different perspective, a woman who has had a massive debt wiped out by her creditor and consequently is repaying Him with the only way she knows how to love. But in case Simon thinks he is immune from the need for forgiveness, Jesus compares his hospitality to that of the woman. Simon has offered no foot washing to clean the grime away, no kiss of welcome, and no anointing of oil on His head to symbolise peace. But this woman, (we still don’t get to know her name), although her sins are many, (Jesus is not blind to what she has done), has been forgiven. We don’t know when Jesus and the woman previously met, but it seems she was forgiven then, because she has returned in faith, trusting in the promise of Jesus’ forgiveness to show her love of Him.

Jesus’ forgiveness of the woman’s sins gives her a new identity, she is of a different sort now, but also brings questioning from the other guests; “who is this who forgives sins?”

The woman’s faith is “saving faith,” it isn’t just words but it is words that lead to action, just as Jesus had taught, and He dismisses her in peace.

## Group Study

Open the group with prayer and discuss how you have used your application from last week's study in your life, and what you have learned from it.

What is your favourite sort of Jelly bean?

What is your least favourite sort?

Have you ever taken a personality test, and if so which ones and what sort are you?

Why is it so important to us to know "what sort" a person is?

What sorts of people does Jesus see?

What is the difference between the way Jesus sees the woman and the woman?

When you look at "that sort," are you closer to being Jesus or the Pharisee?

Jesus invited the Pharisee to look again at woman and to really see what sort of person she is.

Have you ever misjudged someone because you assumed you knew what sort of person they were?

*7 Truly no man can ransom another,  
or give to God the price of his life,  
8 or the ransom of their life is costly  
and can never suffice,  
9 that he should live on forever  
and never see the pit.*

Psalm 49:7–9 (ESV)

What do these verse say about the debt we owe Jesus?

In what ways can we show how much we love Jesus?

How can we accept people without necessarily approving of their actions?

Rosario Butterfield in her book, “The Gospel comes with house keys,” says that we get in trouble when confuse acceptance and approval. Discuss.

### Personal study time

Read the following passage and using the REAP method reflect on how you can show hospitality and to whom.

*See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.*

*2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.*

*3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.*

*4 Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. 5 You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.*

*6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. 7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. 8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. 9 No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. 10 By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.*

*11 For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.*

1 John 3:1–11 (ESV)

NAME OF THE BOOK

## Reflection

[illegible]

## **REAP Method of studying Scripture**

### **READ**

Read the passages with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction, and correction (2 Timothy 3:16). Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

### **EXAMINE**

Spend some time reflecting and writing about what you've read. Write down one or two of the key verses that stuck out to you. Ask yourself these questions and write down your thoughts:

- \* What is going on in the passage?
- \* Who is writing and whom is he writing to?
- \* When was the author writing?
- \* What are the circumstances that the author is addressing?
- \* Does the writer mention anything that might indicate his purpose or intent?
- \* how do you think the author wants his audience to respond?

### **APPLY**

After examining the passage, apply the text to your own life. Ask yourself these questions:

- \* What is God's word for me from this passage?
- \* How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

## KIDS CORNER



### **Big or Small, He Forgives 'em All**

#### **1. Do you find it hard to forgive people?**

Sometimes, forgiveness doesn't seem like a big deal. After just a little while, you don't care anymore, so letting it go is easy peasy! But what about the really bad things that people do? It doesn't seem right to not care about those. Luke 7 tells us the woman who came and washed Jesus' feet had done some of those really bad things before. It seemed like she would have been extremely hard to forgive. At least, that's what the Pharisee thought. But Jesus saw beyond the sinful past of the weeping woman at His feet. He recognized how sorry she was over it. Her heart was ready and willing to put away those evil ways, and she proved it by coming to Him, humbling herself, and serving Him as her Lord. The truth is, every single evil deed needs forgiveness. Despite

what the Pharisee may have thought, his life needed forgiveness

just as much as that uninvited guest did. He couldn't fully appreciate the love and sorrow which she poured out on Jesus, because he didn't realize that he needed to do the same thing. His own sins were worth mourning. His own life needed repentance. If only he had embraced the beautiful repentance and grateful humility that the woman displayed. After all, Jesus' perfect forgiveness is available to all of us who ask, no matter how big or small our sins may seem.

## **2. How do you view your own sins?today?**