



How's that Working for You - Week 3 Discussion & Reflection Guide

Questions and Prompts

- Eddie gave several examples of rivalry at the beginning of the message. **What comes to your mind when you hear about rivalry?**
- **What stood out to you from Sunday's service?** How did you sense God at work in you through the songs, the message and being together with others as part of the church? (The message's main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you think back.)
- **Read the story in Luke 7:36-50.** Read it slowly. If you're in a group, have someone read it out loud.
 - **What details do you notice as you read or hear it?**
 - **One at a time, make a list of what words describe Simon, the women, and Jesus in this scene.**
 - **What stands out in Jesus' story and words in this passage?**
 - **If you can imagine yourself in this scene, where would you be? Can you relate to one of the people more than another? Why?**
- Eddie shared, "It is beautiful when our hunger for God is greater than our self-consciousness." **Have you ever witnessed this type of extravagant response to God—either in yourself or from someone else?**
- Eddie also shared, "God requires us to admit that we desperately need his forgiveness." He offered these two questions for reflection. **Spend some time talking to God about each of them:**
 - **Do I have many sins or few?**
 - **Are my sins serious or trivial?**Once you have spent time reflecting and praying, **read the words of Romans 3:23-24** from the Message, paraphrase and **express your gratitude to God** for his generosity.
- **Is there anything else from the message you want to explore more deeply this week?**

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or with a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take your next spiritual step, contact us at info@wschurch.org.

All-Church Groups kick off on January 26, and we'd love for YOU to join us! These five-week groups are the perfect way to deepen your faith, build meaningful relationships, and grow in community. Learn more and sign up at wschurch.org/allchurchgroups.

Message Main Points & Scripture

- **RIVALRY**
- **Competition and rivalry do not automatically dissolve as we age.**
- James 3:14 – “If you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don’t cover up the truth with boasting and lying. For jealousy and selfishness are not God’s kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.”
- **religious rivalry**
- **Do I have many sins or only a few?**
- **Are my sins serious or trivial?**
- **a religious leader named Simon**
- Luke 7:36 – “One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to have dinner with him, so Jesus went to his home and sat down to eat.”
- **a kiss of greeting**
- **a place for guests to wash feet**
- **a few drops of oil on the head**
- **a woman who was living an immoral lifestyle**
- Luke 7:37 – “When a certain immoral woman from that city heard he was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume. Then she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping. Her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing his feet and putting perfume on them.”
- Luke 7:39 - When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. She’s a sinner!”
- **All of us deserve the moniker: sinner.**
- Luke 7:40 - 48 - Then Jesus answered his thoughts. “Simon,” he said to the Pharisee, “I have something to say to you.” “Go ahead, Teacher,” Simon replied. Then Jesus told him this story: “A man loaned money to two people – 500 pieces of silver to one and 50 pieces to the other. But neither of them could repay him, so he kindly forgave them both, canceling their debts. Who do you suppose loved him more after that?” Simon answered, “I suppose the one for whom he canceled the larger debt.” “That’s right,” Jesus said. Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, “Look at this woman kneeling here. When I entered your home, you didn’t offer me water to wash the dust from my feet, but she has washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You didn’t greet me with a kiss, but from the time I first came in, she has not stopped kissing my feet. You neglected the courtesy of olive oil to anoint my head, but she has anointed my feet with rare perfume. “I tell you, her sins – and they are many – have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love.” Then Jesus said to the woman, “Your sins are forgiven.”
- **God requires us to admit that we desperately need his forgiveness.**

- Romans 3:23 (Message) - Since we've compiled this long and sorry record as sinners and proved that we are utterly incapable of living the glorious lives God wills for us, God did it for us. Out of sheer generosity he put us in right standing with himself.
- **This scene is a promise for anyone whose life is a mess.**
- **This scene is a warning to anyone who is spiritually smug.**
- **Do I have many sins or few?**
- **Are my sins serious or trivial?**