

## 1 Tim 1:12-17; Luke 7 & 8

### ice breaker

Share about a time when you received an unexpectedly generous or extravagant gift. How did it make you feel? How did you respond?

### overview

- The gospel removes our shame and replaces it with courage to love and share boldly.
- The deeper we understand our sin, the more we grasp the depth of God's love and forgiveness.
- Recognising our sin produces humble, extravagant love that connects us to others instead of fostering spiritual pride.

### discussion

- 1** In Luke 7, the Centurion professed that he didn't deserve Jesus' help, while Simon assumed that he did. What does this contrast teach us about how we should approach the Lord?
- 2** Paul calls himself the worst of sinners in 1 Timothy. What is the deeper point Paul was making about grace and self-awareness?
- 3** Jesus asked if Simon and the others saw the woman and her sacrificial act of love. How does recognising our own sin change the way we see and treat others?

## go deeper

Ps Nathan's message challenges us to move beyond surface-level faith into the radical transformation that comes from truly understanding both the depth of our sin and the extravagance of God's love.

Drawing from Luke 7 and the Apostle Paul's confession that he was the *worst of sinners*, we're invited on a journey many Christians avoid, allowing the Lord to reveal the full extent of our brokenness so we can experience the full measure of His grace. The contrast between Simon the Pharisee and the woman with the alabaster jar shows two fundamentally different ways we might approach Jesus: polite, proper, and distant, or messy, extravagant, and intimate. The woman didn't perform her devotion to earn salvation, as her life had already been transformed by Jesus. The broken jar, the flowing tears, the unbound hair; gratitude so overwhelming that social conventions became irrelevant.

Perhaps we need to confront whether we've grown too comfortable with religious routine, favouring intellectual conversations over transformational encounters with Jesus. When we grasp that we're all indebted to Christ, we begin to see people as equals who are in desperate need of the same grace we've been shown. This realisation doesn't shame us; rather, it connects us to humanity and compels us to share the good news.

## activation

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Take turns finishing these sentences aloud as a group:

*Like Simon, one way I can be judgemental is...*

*Like the woman, I want to love Jesus more extravagantly by...*

*To love Him more wholly, something I need to let go of is...*

## application

Commit to undertaking both of these applications. #1 now and #2 during the week.

### Application 1: Personal Practice

- Pray the dangerous prayer: "*Lord, show me the depth of my sin so I can know the depth of your love.*"
- Write down anything the Lord reveals to you.

### Application 2: Step Out

- Identify one person you've overlooked or written off.
- Reach out to them this week with genuine interest and compassion, and share something about your faith.
- **Remember:** they're not worse than you — they just haven't found living water yet.

## prayer points

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Courage to truly see ourselves as saved from our sin by grace.

Eyes to see others the way Jesus sees them.

Freedom from shame and religious facades, with hearts that extravagantly love the Lord.

Increased boldness to unashamedly share the gospel.

## final thought

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When we see ourselves and others as loved by God and forgiven of our sin, shame falls away. The way we approach the Lord completely changes! Let us embrace the freedom of our salvation to love extravagantly, boldly sharing this good news.

# CG Leader Resource

Hi Connect Group Leader!

*This topic confronts the shame and pride that keep us from loving Jesus extravagantly. This may lead to emotional responses when discussing sin and shame. Lead/model this yourself to help create a safe space for vulnerability*

Use the Notes above or this Resource – whatever you feel will work best for your group.

Prayer/praise report from your group? Anything else you think we should know? [Click here](#) to pass it on to our Pastoral Team so we can address it in our weekly meeting.

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## additional questions

Q1 - In Luke 8:1-3, a group of women joined the disciples, having been healed and delivered; they committed their lives to supporting His ministry. So too, as His disciple, how can **you** apply your deep commitment to the Lord through your actions?

Q2 - Are you more like a *50 denarii person* who goes through religious motions, or a *500 denarii person* who is deeply aware of how much they've been forgiven?

Q3 - The woman had been radically healed and transformed. Given the radical, transformative power of Jesus' love for all, how does this challenge your approach to sharing the gospel?

## quiet reflection exercise

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Invite the group to consider the following statement quietly in journaling and prayer, or even with one another.

*We each have our own 'alabaster jar', perhaps something of great value or something in which we find our meaning.*

*Jesus' personal invitation is to pour these out unto Him, as an act of sacrificial, extravagant worship.*