

Key Scriptures

A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner." Luke 7:37-39 NIV

Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little." Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." Luke 7:44-48 NIV

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:28-29 NIV

Start Talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Everyone has a story. Describe your faith journey. How was it that you were invited? How did you come to know Christ?
- When you're feeling tired, what's your go-to method for finding rest?

Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- When you came to faith in Christ, what did you experience or feel? Pick one word to describe what you experienced after you found faith in Christ.
- Read Luke 7:37-39. What was it about Jesus that allowed the woman to approach Him so boldly?
- Read Matthew 11:28-29. How does the rest and acceptance Jesus offers differ from what the world offers?

How does this conversation (the whole sermon about Jesus inviting people others reject) relate to the overall conversation about spiritual warfare?

Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Share about a time when you felt rejected by people. What are some ways you can find acceptance in Christ?
- Talk about one person you're praying for to come to Christ. Pray for those you know and love who don't know Christ.

Start Praying. Pray this prayer in your own words over the person next to you!

Father, thank You for never making us feel left out or unwelcome. You love us and have invited us to be a part of your family for all time. Help us to embrace Your acceptance and extend it to the people in our lives. In Jesus' name, amen.

Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Have you accepted God's invitation to be a part of His family? If not, prayerfully consider taking that step this week.
- Extend Christ's love and acceptance to someone in need of it this week.