

Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

**COMMUNITY GROUPS ARE BETTER WHEN MEMBERS COME PREPARED. THIS GUIDE HAS BEEN PROVIDED AS A TOOL FOR THAT.**

## Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

### Message Summary

None of us ever want to be overlooked, and yet all of us at times overlook others. That, according to the story found in Luke 7:36-50, is unacceptable for followers of Jesus. In fact, the Big Idea this week says that **we see people because Jesus sees people**, and Paul pointed out 3 things that can cause us to overlook others. Being aware of them can help us fare much better than Simon the Pharisee did when an unexpected woman turned a dinner into a one awkward moment!

1. **We overlook what we undervalue:** Simon didn't see the woman because he didn't value the woman. Unfortunately for him, he also didn't see Jesus for the Savior that He is, because he didn't value the meaning of the moment. Sometimes we miss the most life-changing moments simply because we fail to see the meaning behind them.
2. **We overlook when we're overbooked:** Just like airlines overbook flights because they know not everyone will show up, when we overbook our lives, there's no way we can keep all the commitments. Something has to give, and it's usually God. Simon's life was full of rules and regulations, and there was no room for a sinful woman interrupting his dinner with Jesus.
3. **We overlook when we're insulated:** One way to overlook others is by only seeing ourselves. When we're the hero of our own stories or when we've set up systems that make us the "insiders" and all the bad people "outsiders," then we're going to overlook Jesus (and the people He sees!). Simon couldn't get past his Pharisee grid long enough to see the beautiful transformation that was taking place in the woman in front of him. He was too insulated to be inspired, and as a result, he was unchanged. This woman was evidence that transformation by Jesus begins with an appreciation of Jesus. The woman had it. Simon didn't.

### Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- What takeaway – if any – did you have from the message this week?
- What types of things or people do you typically overlook during your day? How hard is it to admit that you overlook people?
- Have you ever been overlooked? What emotions did you experience?
- Which of the 3 dangers – undervaluing, being overbooked or too insulated – would you say you tend to struggle with the most? How could repentance, worship and generosity help?
- Read Genesis 16:7-16. What name Hagar name God? How powerful is it that God saw her after she had just been overlooked and undervalued by Sarai (see Genesis 16:6)?
- Read Psalm 119:18. What did the Psalmist want to see? How did Simon the Pharisee miss the "wonderful things" in the law? How can seeing people transformed by Jesus serve as a reminder of why Jesus came?
- Close the time by thanking God for not overlooking you or by asking God to open your eyes to see others around you who you may be overlooking (or for both!).