

Small Group Discussion Guide: April 19, 2026

Icebreaker:

When you think of the word “*righteous*,” what comes to mind? A type of person? A behavior? A feeling?

Set the Stage:

Both passages today involve a “sinful woman,” religious leaders, and a moment of public tension. As we read, pay attention to *who speaks, who stays silent, and how Jesus responds differently than expected*.

Read aloud as a group:

- John 8:1–11
- Luke 7:36–50

The Setup – Public Sin & Private Motives

1. In John’s account, what reason do the religious leaders give for bringing the woman to Jesus? What might their real motive be? (*See John 8:4–6*)
2. In Luke’s account, what is Simon the Pharisee thinking internally about the woman and Jesus? (*See Luke 7:39*)
3. What similarities do you see in how both women are treated by others in these moments? (*Compare John 8:3–4 and Luke 7:37–39*)
4. Where do you see judgment happening—either spoken or unspoken—in both stories? (*John 8:5, Luke 7:39*)
5. Why do you think both stories take place in such public settings? What effect does that have on the situation? (*John 8:2–3, Luke 7:36–37*)

Jesus Reframes the Situation

1. What does Jesus say in response to the accusers in John 8, and how does it shift the focus? (*John 8:7*)
2. In Luke 7, why does Jesus tell the parable of the two debtors? What point is He making? (*Luke 7:41–43*)
3. How does Jesus expose the hearts of the religious leaders in both stories? (*John 8:7–9, Luke 7:44–47*)
4. What stands out to you about what Jesus *doesn’t* say in either situation? (*Reflect on John 8:6, Luke 7:40*)
5. Why is it significant that the focus shifts from the woman’s sin to the condition of everyone else’s heart? (*John 8:7, Luke 7:47*)

Section 3: Response to Jesus – Leaving vs. Leaning In

1. What happens to the accusers in John 8 after Jesus speaks? What might this indicate? (*John 8:9*)
2. How does Simon respond (or not respond) after Jesus corrects him? (*Luke 7:43–46*)
3. What actions show the woman’s posture toward Jesus in Luke 7? (*Luke 7:37–38*)
4. In John 8, the woman remains with Jesus after everyone else leaves. What might that suggest about her response? (*John 8:9–10*)
5. What differences do you see between those who walk away from Jesus and those who draw near to Him? (*Compare John 8:9–11 and Luke 7:47–50*)

Section 4: Forgiveness, Freedom, and Transformation

1. What does Jesus say to the woman in John 8 about condemnation and sin? (*John 8:10–11*)
2. What does Jesus say to the woman in Luke 7 about forgiveness and faith? (*Luke 7:47–50*)
3. In Luke 7:47, what is the relationship between forgiveness and love? How does that challenge your assumptions?
4. Why do you think Jesus offers forgiveness before commanding change? (*John 8:11, Luke 7:48–50*)
5. How does each story redefine what it means to be “righteous” or “right with God”?

Section 5: Personal Reflection & Application

1. Who do you most identify with in these stories right now—and why? (*Consider all characters in both passages*)
2. Where might you be tempted to act more like the accusers than like Jesus? (*John 8:5–7, Luke 7:39*)
3. Is there an area in your life where you struggle to receive forgiveness—or believe it fully? (*John 8:11, Luke 7:48*)
4. How can recognizing your own need for grace change the way you treat others? (*Luke 7:47, John 8:7*)
5. What would it look like this week to “go and sin no more” from a place of grace rather than guilt? (*John 8:11*)