

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

If God is Love... Week 2



CONNECT

Spend some time checking in. What are highs and lows since you last met? How can your group members pray for and support each other this week?

GROW

- Have you ever taken a personality / leadership assessment (i.e. Myers Briggs, Enneagram, etc.)? What did you learn about yourself? Share the results with your group and compare.
- Name a time when someone labeled or "named" you in a way that you appreciated. What about a time the labels you received were hurtful or untrue? How did you respond in both of those situations? Who would you say you are? Think of 5 words you'd use to describe yourself.
- Read Luke 7:36-43. Why is it so easy to default to *external* factors to label us or name our worth? How could we change that? Where could we change that in our relationships with others?
- In the Bible, God says you are: *a new creation; forever loved; healed; strong; forgiven; made whole; fearfully and wonderfully made; powerful and loved*. Which resonates most with you? When you know that you are who God says you are, how does that change things?

PRAY

Loving God, You sent your son to show us what love looks like. Help us to be people who reflect your love in the world. Amen.



BIBLE READINGS

Luke 7:36-43

36 When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table.

37 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. **38** 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. **39** 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." **40** Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," he said. **41** "Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. **42** Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?" **43** Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

Verses where God says *who you are*:

- A new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- Forever loved (Romans 8:38-39)
- Healed (Isaiah 53:45)
- Strong (Psalm 18:32)
- Forgiven (1 John 2:12)
- Made whole (Colossians 2:10)
- Powerful and loved (2 Timothy 1:7)
- Fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139)

