

Engage Bible Study: Luke 7:1-8:3 – Faith and Identity
November 14-16, 2011



- A. Jesus heals a Centurion's Servant (7:1-10)
- B. Jesus raises the widow's son at Nain (7:11-17)
- C. Messengers from John the Baptist (7:18-35)
 - a. John's question and Jesus' response (18-23)
 - b. Jesus' view of John (24-30)
 - c. Jesus' rebuke to the religious leaders (31-35)
- D. A sinful woman forgiven (7:36-50)
- E. Jesus' support system (8:1-3)

Questions for Small Group Conversation

If the people around the table don't know one another please begin with introductions.

Opening Prayer: *God, thank you for this time together to open your word and grow closer to you and to one another. We invite your Holy Spirit into our conversation to open our eyes, hearts and minds to whatever you would have us learn. In the strong name of Jesus we pray. Amen.*

Open Up (pick one or both to get your conversation started)

- What's the most meaningful "thank you" you've ever received?

Dig In

- Is God still healing people and raising the dead today? Explain your answer.
- How does Luke's vision of what the Messiah is about compare to your vision of what Jesus came to do?
- Does this section of Luke affirm your faith or convict you? Why?
- How do you understand the connection between forgiveness and salvation? How does it compare to the connection that Jesus makes in 7:50?

Move Out

- If the movement of God through Jesus the Messiah is to restore: to heal the sick, bring sight to the blind, raise the dead and proclaim good news to the poor...what does that mean for those who profess faith in the Messiah? Isn't that primarily what the Church, and therefore each and every one of us as disciples is called to do? How is that going in your life?
- When you consider the amount of gratitude that your life reveals, what does that say about your faith? Be careful here. It would be simple to hear that as a call to simply do more or give more. That's not the point. God is, I think, pointing to deeper things, things of the heart. If you can be honest enough with yourself to admit that you really don't feel terribly grateful for what has done for you in Jesus...what does that mean? And if you really do feel grateful but your life doesn't really express that gratitude, why doesn't it?

Next Week: – Luke 8:4-25: Teaching in Parables

Notes: