



Sharing

Circle Up: Get settled; Reach out to anyone we expected to be here but isn't.

Opening Prayer: Holy One, Giver of all Gifts, we yearn to be a generous people. You, in loving sacrifice, sent your son Jesus, Let our acts of extravagant generosity through mercy, compassion and service shape our faith and bring us closer to you. Amen.

The Question: Go around the circle answering, "Where have you seen God this week?"

Studying

Scripture: Luke 7:36-50 One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and when he went into the Pharisee's house he reclined to dine. And a woman in the city who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair, kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner." Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak." "A certain moneylender had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven loves little." Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" But he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Reflection Questions:

- Read Luke 7:36-50. Consider each character in the story. Who is generous and who is not? Consider the possible reasons for their generosity or lack of generosity.
- Share a time when you received a surprising act of generosity. How did you feel?
- How are feelings and gratitude and acts of generosity connected?
- Way are acts of generosity a disciple's faith response?

Praying

Pray for each other in silence or aloud.

At the end of the silent prayer, pray the Lord's Prayer together.

Encouraging

What's your next step on the discipleship path?

What can we do to help each other?

When are we gathering next?