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*a place called*  
**Home**

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Worship, Discussion &  
Activity Guide

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*At-Home Worship Weekend*  
Sunday, December 27 2015



## EXPLANATION OF *AT-HOME* WORSHIP WEEKEND:

On Sunday, December 27th (Sunday after Christmas), instead of having services at our Life Church campus, we will be taking our Worship Celebrations to our homes and living rooms. We are calling this *At-Home Worship Weekend*. This weekend is intended to give you, your family, friends, neighbors and/or your Life Group the opportunity to share an *at-home* worship experience. This Worship & Discussion Guide will provide you with easy-to-follow steps and resources (for adults and children) to experience *church* together in a unique way.

**Why are we doing this?** The Christmas season can be incredibly busy, filled with lots of family gatherings, company parties, children's activities, cooking (and eating, of course), shopping and travel. This last weekend of the year provides a unique and much-needed opportunity for rest, recovery and time at home for many of us. By doing church at home this weekend, we want to encourage rest and time together, replacing the guilt of not attending church with an opportunity to worship at home as a church. This weekend also gives many of our volunteers who serve our church on the weekends the opportunity for a break before jumping into a new year.

We encourage you to enjoy this weekend at home with your family to or invite friends, neighbors or anyone else you can think of who needs to hear the Good News of hope, joy and peace that comes from God's *greatest gift* to us - His Son Jesus. We also encourage you to get creative with this experience. This guide is designed to enhance (not inhibit) this experience, and although we strongly suggest following as many of the steps below as possible and utilizing the resources made available, we do encourage you to spend time making this personal and take time to add your own creative *flare!* There is far more information provided than you will have time to cover, so we suggest taking time to pick and choose what will work best for you, your family and/or your group.

Something we remind each other of often is how the *church* is not a place (a building or location) or a service we attend once a week. The church is something richer and far deeper. It's a community of relationships, a people in intentional relationship with one another, committed to growing together in a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and taking His Gospel to the communities and world around us.

We pray this *At-Home* Worship Weekend will provide you with a beautiful reminder of the power of this fellowship we find ourselves part of as the local church that can never be bound by a location.

# OUTLINE OF THE WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

## I. WELCOME:

- If you have guests, consider having everyone go around and introduce themselves.
- Also, consider providing snacks or enjoying a meal together before or after.
- **Welcome to *Home Church!*** Give a brief explanation of the time.

## II. INTRODUCTION VIDEO:

- Available online at [www.lifechurchnc.com](http://www.lifechurchnc.com): If you are unable to stream the video from your television or computer, a script of Pastor Chris's introduction has been provided. (pg.4)

## III. ICEBREAKER:

- **Question:** *What are 1-2 things you are genuinely thankful for from the year past?*
- **Give each person an opportunity to answer and have some fun with this.** You might also consider having everyone share at least ONE thing they're most thankful for concerning the people in the room. (i.e: the person sitting next to them) Or keep it simple by asking everyone to share why they're thankful to be gathered together for a different kind of church experience?
- **Pray, or ask someone to pray,** as you prepare to move into a time of worship through music

## IV. WORSHIP:

Below are a few recommended songs by our Worship Team at Life Church. You can sing along with the videos, or if you have a musician in your group (guitar, piano and/or vocal), ask them to lead. Chord charts are available for download on our website. For additional resources, please contact our **Worship Arts Director, Chris Gratton** ([chrisgratton@lifechurchnc.com](mailto:chrisgratton@lifechurchnc.com))

- **God With Us**
- **In Christ Alone**
- **Give Me Jesus**

## V. DISCUSSION:

- **Family Lesson/Discussion Guide** (for families with children, *pg. 7*)
- **Adult Discussion Guide** (*pg.10*)

## VI. GOSPEL:

Resources for sharing the Good News of Jesus with both adults and children. (*pg.16*)

## Script for Introduction Video by Pastor Chris

Greetings, Church Family & Friends.

I want to welcome you to our second annual At-Home Worship Weekend with Life Church. Normally on Sundays, our church family gathers for one of our two morning services for a time of celebration and worship. However, on this last Sunday of the year, we're doing something a little different to give our church family, along with our friends, neighbors and guests, an opportunity to *experience* church together in an authentic and unique way.

One of our deep convictions as a church-body is distinguishing the difference between attending church and being church. Church is more than a service to attend or a building where we gather; it's a people with whom we belong. The church is a gathering of people, connecting with one another while connecting with God. It's meant to be a home for all people who are discovering the home all of us were created for in relationship with God through His Son, Jesus. This has been much of the focus of this teaching series we've been journeying through during the month of December titled, *A Place Called Home*, and I honestly can't think of a better way to conclude this series than by doing what we're doing today, taking church to our living rooms. So, let me begin our time together with the same message we intend to greet everyone with any time we gather together as a church family; **Welcome home! You belong here!** On behalf of our Life Church family, it is our prayer that this time together will serve as a blessed and refreshing experience for you.

Of course, by now Christmas Day has come and gone, and regardless of *how* you celebrated and with *whom* you celebrated, I hope your Christmas was filled with enjoyment and peace and that you were somehow - even in the midst of all the gatherings, the food and all with wrapping paper flying around - able to focus your heart on the true reason for our joy during this season through the humble coming of Jesus. So, now we find ourselves at this interesting time of the year between the festivities of Christmas and the arrival of the new year. Now, if your house is anything like the Shelton home, this is the week when we catch our breath and try to find some time to recover from all of the excitement and craziness of the last few weeks. If you have, or have ever had young children, chances are you know exactly what I'm talking about! As much as I enjoy this time of year, there's always a part of me that looks forward to the week after Christmas when I get to spend a little extra time with my kids and begin preparing for the year ahead.

But it hasn't always been that way. How many of you have been so excited for Christmas to finally arrive, but find yourself in a mild state of depression when it's over? Chances are, it's not just the kids who are bummed out that Christmas is over, right? Because if you're like my wife, you can't wait for Christmas to arrive and you never want it to end. Just in case you're counting, it's only 365 more days until December 25th, 2016. And don't forget to add that extra day in there; it's a leap-year! But for those of you who are experiencing the Christmas blues, perhaps you'll be encouraged to know that Christmas isn't over; it's really just beginning. Let me explain.

This is the time of year traditionally known as the **12 Days of Christmas**, otherwise referred to as **Christmastide**. This season is believed to have been established by the early church in the second century A.D., and would begin on Christmas Day and conclude 12 days later with a feast, which was also known as the Feast of Epiphany. This feast, of course, would usher in the season of Epiphany, which would then last for 6-weeks until the start of the season of Lent. "Epiphany" comes from the Greek word "*Epiphania*," which means "*manifestation, reveal or make-known*," and is a time of celebration to commemorate the visit of the Magi or the Wisemen, which is recorded in Matthew 2:1-12, where God made known the news of this long-awaited Messiah to the first Gentiles (non-Jews). In fact, this season is still celebrated in many liturgical church traditions.

So, for all of you who are sad Christmas is over, there you go! Which means, it's technically still okay to say, "*merry Christmas!*" Go plan another Christmas party!

Now, besides extending the Christmas season, there's actually another reason I bring all this up, which leads us into the rest of our time together today. In the account of the Wisemen recorded in Matthew chapter 2, verses 1-12, we're told that once these Wisemen, or Magi, from the east arrived to the place they had been searching for, guided miraculously by a star, they were **overjoyed**. In verse 11, we see that this joy resulted in their worship of the Christ-

child, Jesus, as they bowed before Him and presented Him with gifts. And in verse 12, we see they returned home. However, there is nothing here that should cause us to believe that their joy was left behind.

It's interesting how there can be so much talk, so much emphasis, so much expectation at Christmas concerning our experience of joy. And yet, once the magic and experience of Christmas begins to fade, oftentimes, so does our joy. **So, here's the question:** *How do we experience a sustaining joy that goes beyond Christmas, a joy that isn't short-lived, but a joy that serves as fuel for the days ahead?*

What if, instead of ending our year with joy, we can actually begin our journey of a new year with joy?

Something I try to take time to do during this particular week each year is reflect on the previous year. I'll usually spend a few hours looking back over some of the most significant events in my life and in the life of my family. I'll look back over my goals from the previous year and evaluate how well I did ... or didn't. This practice not only helps as I prepare for the year ahead, but perhaps most importantly fixes my thoughts on God's faithfulness and His goodness that has been evident over the last year. And here's the cool thing: Regardless of all the challenges, the missed opportunities and the bad from the previous year, in the end, the good always seems to outweigh the bad, and there seem to be way more positives than negatives.

**You see, our joy is absolutely dependent on our ability to identify the good in our lives.** What I've learned is that it's the people who practice gratitude who tend to be the people who are most joyful. In fact, have you ever noticed how, oftentimes, it's the ungrateful heart or the ungrateful person who always seems to notice what's wrong with life? It's the person who feels deserving, entitled and worthy of only good things in their lives who seem to be the experts on what's wrong with other people and the world around them. This is not only a life absent of joy; this is a life absent of life itself.

**Did you know that one of God's chief purposes for your life is your joy?** Like the Magi, this joy begins when we encounter Jesus - the One who left His home in heaven to rescue a sinful humanity who has wandered from home, to bring us back to the home in Him we were created for all along. And this joy is sustained by keeping ourselves centered in the power of the Gospel and our gratitude for the forgiveness that is ours through the grace of God.

### **What's Next?**

So, over the next couple of minutes together, we're going to be taking a closer look at the source of joy by focusing on gratitude. This is going to be an awesome time together. In your Worship Guide, you will find an outline that will serve to guide you through the rest of this time together, including two options for discussions - ONE for families with children that has been designed by our LifeKids Ministry, and ONE for adult groups. Next up is a question for you and your family or your group to discuss together followed by a time of worship.

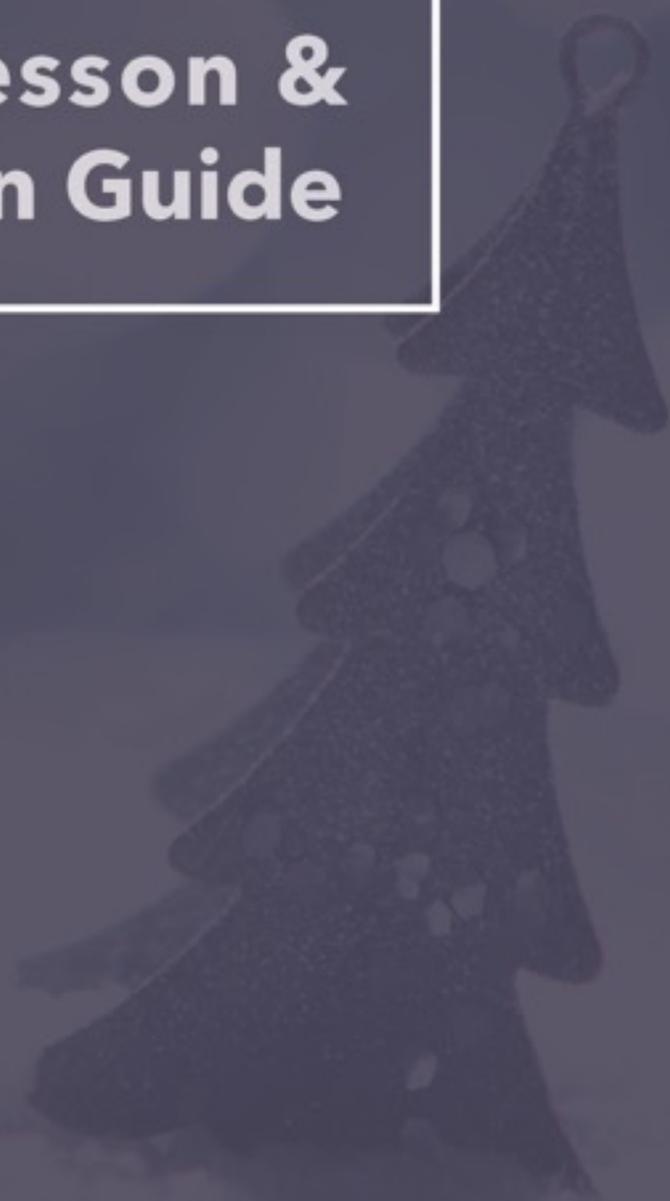
### **Other Announcements:**

Before you continue in the rest of your time together, let me pass along a few quick reminders:

- **This Week's Offering:** One of the ways we worship together each weekend is by giving our tithes and offerings. This weekend, we encourage you to checkout our ONLINE GIVING option by visiting our website ([www.lifechurchnc.com/giving/](http://www.lifechurchnc.com/giving/)). Or you can mail or drop-off your offering in the mailbox to: 708 Jake Alexander Blvd. W., Salisbury, NC 28147. Please remember that your Year-End Contributions must be received/postmarked by December 31st to count toward your 2015 tax-deductible contributions.
- **See you next year!** We will resume our Worship Gatherings next Sunday, January 3rd (9:15am/11am) with an interactive message of hope for your new year titled, *Pour Some Salt in It*.

Again, enjoy this At-Home Worship experience together!!

# **Family Lesson & Discussion Guide**



## FAMILY LESSON/DISCUSSION GUIDE *for parents and children*

**PARENTS:** *Below is a simple plan to guide you and your children through a discussion and activities focused on worship. Our gratitude for what God has done for us leads us to worship Him by giving Him our very best. We encourage you to think creatively here and have fun with this. Please let our LifeKids team know if there is anything we can assist you with further! (Cindy Schreier, Director - [cindy@lifechurchnc.com](mailto:cindy@lifechurchnc.com); or Kerstin Brown, Asst. Director - [kerstin@lifechurchnc.com](mailto:kerstin@lifechurchnc.com))*

### **NEED TO KNOW (Big Idea):** *I Worship Jesus When I Give Him My Best!*

**BIBLE STORY:** Wise Men Worship Jesus- Matthew 2:1-15

**Opening CONNECT question:** *Ask everyone to say what Christmas cookie is the best. (allow to respond)*

**SAY:** *All of those cookies sound great! If I had TEN of your favorite cookies, and I gave you ALL of them, would you say that I gave you my best? What if I only gave you a bite of one? (That wouldn't be my best)*

*When we give Jesus our best, we are worshipping Him. Worship is one way we can show Jesus we love Him. That's what we need to know today: **I Worship Jesus When I Give Him My Best!***

**Say the NEED TO KNOW together:**  
*I Worship Jesus When I Give Him My Best!*

### **BIBLE STORY**

Use the **Bible Story Page** (**Appendix A**) and act out or read from Matthew 2:1-15, or watch this short **VIDEO**. After the story ASK:

- *What told the wise men that a new king had been born? (A star)*
- *When the wise men met Jesus, how did they worship Him? (By giving their best gifts)*

**SAY:** When we worship Jesus, we give Him our BEST because we want Him to know how much we love Him! That's what we need to know today: ***I Worship Jesus When I Give Him My Best!***

### **APPLICATION ACTIVITY:**

Locate and cut-out the charades cards in **Appendix B**. Divide your family into 2 teams. A parent should act out what is on the card. Teams will try to figure out what charade the leader is acting out. If they guess correctly, they get to keep the card.

**After each card, SAY:** *When you give your best at \_\_\_\_\_ (the action just acted), you are worshipping Jesus.*

When all cards are acted out, declare a winner.

**After ASK:**

- *When we worship, do we give our best or our worst? (Our best)*
- *So what do we need to know? **I Worship Jesus When I Give Him My Best!***

## WRAP IT UP

Memory Verse- practice memorizing the Bible verse”

*“In all these things (spread arms in front) we will do even more than win! (make touchdown signal with arms) We owe it all to Jesus, (point up) who has loved us.” **Romans 8:37***

## PRAYER

*Heavenly Father, we have so much to be thankful for because you have given us so much. We know we can worship you by giving you our BEST! We love you. Amen.*

### ACCEPTING JESUS:

The greatest way we worship Jesus is by giving Him our lives and trusting in Him to be our Savior. There are 3 simply, but important truths (ABC) below we want to make sure our children understand before making this decision for themselves.

- (A) We must Admit that we have messed up and done things wrong (sin) which separates us from God.
- (B) We must Believe that God sent His Son, Jesus, to live a perfect life and die on a cross to pay the price for the forgiveness of our sins. We must also believe that Jesus rose again and has prepared a place in Heaven for us.
- (C) We must Choose to accept the gift of forgiveness and follow Jesus.

**Are you ready to receive this gift?** *\*Parents, we want to be careful to not lead our children into a decision they are not ready to make. Though the Gospel is simple, requiring a childlike faith (Mark 10:13-16), we want to make sure our children understand it's implications. Ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance. If you sense your child isn't ready to take this step, that's okay. Continue to be faithful to sow the seeds of the Gospel in their lives!*

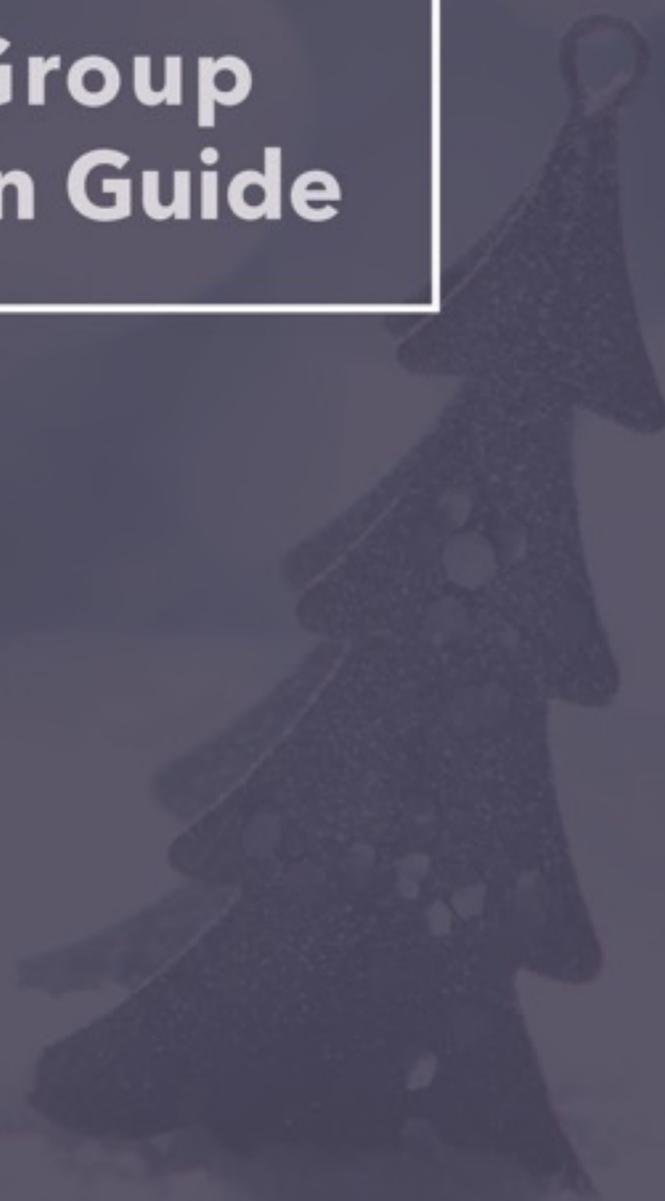
*For those who are ready to make this decision, here is a prayer that you can lead them in:*

**Salvation prayer** (Have them repeat after you):

*“Dear God, I know that I am a sinner and have messed up. (pause) But I believe in your Son, Jesus. (pause) I believe that He came to this world (pause) and lived a perfect and sinless life. (pause) And I know that He died on a cross to pay the price for my sins. (pause) Jesus is the greatest gift, (pause) and I choose to follow Him. (pause) Please forgive me of my sins. (pause) Help me grow more like Jesus every day. (pause) Amen.”*

**If anyone at your gathering prayed this prayer, please let us know by emailing our Children's Director, Cindy Schreier - [cindy@lifechurchnc.com](mailto:cindy@lifechurchnc.com)). We would love to follow-up and provide resources to help them grow in their new relationship with Christ.**

# **Adult Group Discussion Guide**



## DISCUSSION GUIDE *for Adults*

### Getting the discussion started:

- Have you ever had someone show-up to your house unexpectedly or crash your party who wasn't invited? (*Ask someone to share their story or be prepared to share from your own experience*)
  - How did it make you/others feel?
  - Why do you think that person thought it was okay to show-up unexpectedly or without an invitation?
  - What did you learn from the experience?
- What is the difference between inviting someone into your *house* and inviting someone into your *home*? How would you explain it in your own words?

**INTRODUCTION:** *Today, we're going to take a look at a story in the Bible involving someone who showed-up unexpectedly to a party they weren't invited to attend. In some people's opinion, this is one of the most profound and powerful accounts on the subject of gratitude we find in the Scriptures. It involves Jesus, who is the guest at a party that is being thrown at someone's home. And as we'll see, there are two very different people who encounter people in two very different ways. As we look at these verses together, try to picture yourself in this scene and see if you can identify with the people mentioned.*

**Let's begin by reading Luke 7:36-50.** (*Ask someone to read*)

### QUESTIONS:

What are some things that immediately stand out to you in this passage? Without us trying to offer answers right now, what questions would you immediately have after reading this? (*Assure the group that we will try to touch on as many of these thoughts/questions as possible over the next few minutes. Take note of the questions and be sure to come back to them if time allows.*)

#### Read Luke 7:36-38 again:

- What is ONE word you would use to describe this setting? (ex: *uncomfortable, awkward, tense, etc.*)
- Would you describe the woman's actions as foolish or courageous? Both or neither?
- How would expect a person like this to be received by Christians or churches today?
- What do you suppose she knew about Jesus that gave her the confidence that He would not demean, reject or dismiss her?
- Verse 37 describes the woman as someone who had lived a *sinful life* (NIV), a woman who was immediately identified by her reputation. (most likely that of a prostitute) What would it be like if, instead of people knowing you by name, they only knew you by your worst characteristic(s)?

#### Read Luke 7:39:

- What do Simon's (*Simon the Pharisee, not to be confused with Simon Peter, one of the disciples*) thoughts tell us about what he thinks of Jesus? Himself?
- How does it make you feel to know that Jesus knows your thoughts?
- If Jesus knows everything, including our thoughts, why do we try to hide things from Him?

### Read Luke 7:40-43:

**Explain:** Perhaps one way to understand what Jesus is saying here is to imagine 2 people with credit card debt. One owes \$5,000 to Visa; the other owes \$500. But all of a sudden, Visa decides to forgive everyone's debt, and instead of sending a bill, they send a letter in the mail informing everyone that they now have a \$0 balance. Who is going to love Visa more? (It's not a trick question!)

- Why do you think Jesus started with telling a story instead of getting straight to the point?
- What do you think Jesus's feelings toward Simon are right here? What would yours be?
- What does this teach us about God and what kind of person He is looking for?

### Read Luke 7:44-47:

**Explain:** To fully understand the context here, it was customary for the guest(s) to have their feet washed, or to at least offer a basin of water so that they could wash their own feet when they came into the home, especially if they were the guest of someone wealthy and most especially if the guest were of importance such as a visiting rabbi. It was also customary for the guest to be greeted by the host with a kiss. To neglect doing so would have been equivalent to dishonoring or ignoring the person or communicating superiority to the guest. In addition, it would have been common etiquette and a sign of respect to offer the guest olive oil for anointing their head. However, it seems to be clear that Simon had done none of these things for Jesus.

- Keeping in mind the context, what was Simon communicating to Jesus by NOT doing these things?
- Whose privilege was it to be in Simon's home?
- As a religious leader and expert in the Law, there were many things Simon knew about the Scriptures and about God that the woman didn't. But the woman seemed to know some things about God that Simon didn't. What do you think some of those things were?
- In verse 47, Jesus says *he who has been forgiven little loves little*, but in contrast, the one who has sinned much and been forgiven love much. Is Jesus saying that a person who hasn't sinned much can't love much? Is it about how much you've sinned or is it about understanding how much you've been forgiven?
- Why do you think forgiveness and gratitude are inseparable?

### Read Luke 7:48-49:

- What has she demonstrated to Jesus through her actions that would cause Jesus to forgive her?
- Why doesn't Jesus say the same thing he tells the woman to Simon (and the others)? (**Clarify:** *Simon didn't want his sins to be forgiven because he didn't feel like he needed to be forgiven.*)

### Read Luke 7:50:

- What does Jesus mean here by *go in peace*? (**Clarify:** *Peace with God, Peace with ourselves, Peace with others. See APPENDIX C, Steps to Peace with God*)
- Think about this statement: *For some of us, we can't have peace because we like our turmoil way too much.* What does this mean? Why do you think this is true?

- What examples do we see in this passage (verses 36-50) and in the actions of the sinful woman that allow us to experience peace with God? (**Clarify:** *Surrender to Jesus by bowing before Him; ‘Tears’ symbolize repentance and remorse for the offense of our sins against God, ‘Perfume’ symbolizes coming before Him broken and giving Him the most precious thing we can with our lives.*)

**REFLECTION QUESTIONS:** (*Consider asking the group to close their eyes while you read these aloud*)

- Where are you struggling to experience peace with God in your life?
- Have you been guilty of inviting God into your house but refusing to make Him part of your home? If so, what needs to change?
- What is the best way to express your gratitude to God today?
- Alternative: Watch this [VIDEO \(Now I See\)](#)

**GOSPEL:**

*If you aren't experiencing or haven't experienced peace with God, I want to give you an opportunity to make peace with Him right now.* (See Appendix B for additional information)

1. **Admit your need for a Savior.** God's desire is for you to experience the peace and the life you were created for through a relationship with Him. But because of our sin (our disobedience) we are separated from Him. Despite our best efforts to live a life of holiness and righteousness, left on our own, we will always fall short of God's standard. Attending church and living a *good life* will never be enough.
2. **Be willing to turn from your attempts to reach God on your own.** This involves repenting, which means to turn our lives in a different direction - towards Jesus!
3. **Believe that Jesus' death on the cross was payment-in-full for your sins** and that you have been given God's favor and acceptance through your trust in Him.
4. **Through prayer, invite Jesus to come in and control your life through the Holy Spirit.**

*For those who are ready to make this decision, here is a prayer to get started:*

**Salvation prayer** (Have them repeat after you):

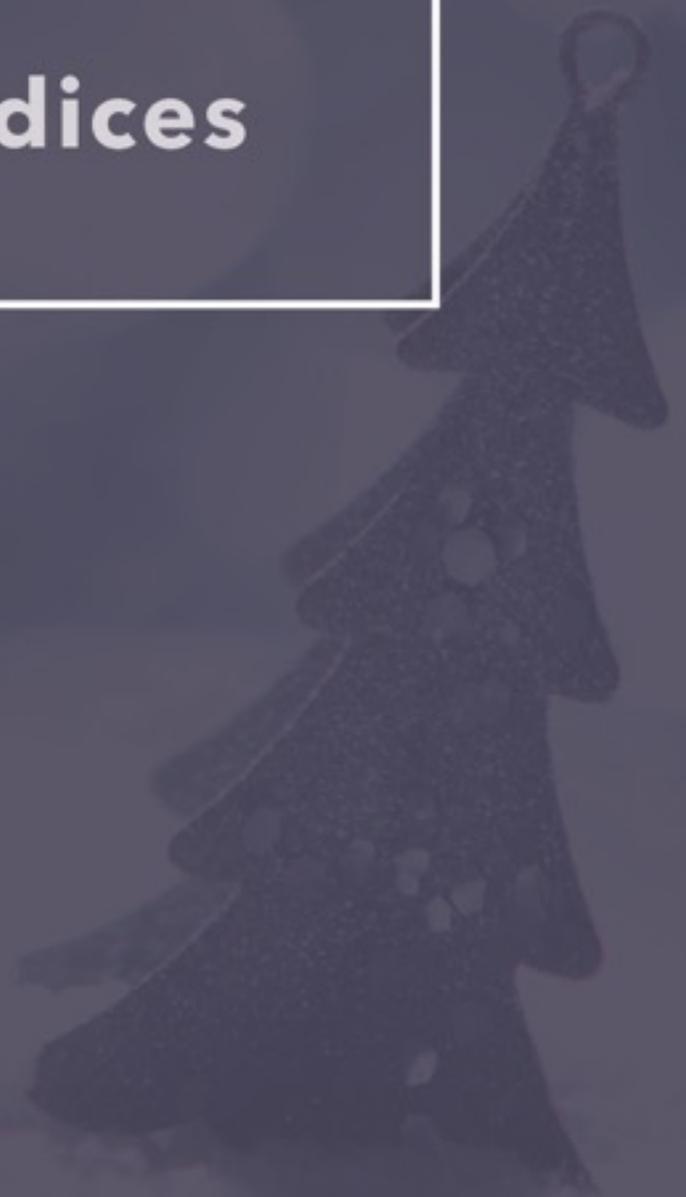
*Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior. In Your Name. Amen!*

**If anyone at your gathering prayed this prayer, please let us know by emailing our Care & Equipping Pastor, Gene Shelton - [gene@lifechurchnc.com](mailto:gene@lifechurchnc.com). We would love to follow-up and provide resources to help them grow in their new relationship with Christ.**

**Closing prayer:**

Ask the group to share how they can pray specifically for one other. Also, take time to pray for friends and loved-ones who need to experience peace with God and for the shameless courage to share the Gospel with them and invite them into fellowship. Give others an opportunity to pray and ask someone to close in prayer.

# Appendices



# Appendix A

## Bible Story

(act out as a family)

### Roles and possible props:

Wise Men (gifts), King Herod (crown), Mary (fabric), Joseph (beard)

### Read the story, prompting family with acting cues:

After Jesus was born, God placed a bright star in the sky. Far away, some wise men saw the star. (Wise men point to star)

They knew that a new king was born. They said, (Wise men repeat the following after you)

"Let's find this king. We'll bring these gifts to him!" So they loaded camels and began the trip. (Wise men pretend to load gifts onto camels and ride)

The wise men reached Jerusalem. Once there, they went to King Herod's palace. (Wise men walk up to King Herod)

The wise men said, (Wise men move mouths to words)

"Where is the new king? We want to worship Him by bringing our best gifts!" But Herod wanted to be the only king. He didn't want Jesus to take his place. So Herod tricked the wise men and said, (King Herod repeats the following after you)

"Go find the new king. Then tell me, so I can worship Him, too." But King Herod really wanted to KILL Jesus! So the wise men followed the star to Bethlehem, where Mary and Joseph were. (Wise men walk up to Mary and Joseph)

Then the wise men got off their camels and bowed down in front of baby Jesus. (Wise men bow down, Mary pretends to hold baby Jesus)

The wise men worshiped Jesus by giving Him their best gifts. (Wise men give gifts to baby Jesus)

That night, God spoke to the wise men in a dream while they were sleeping. (Wise men pretend to sleep)

He told them about King Herod's trick so they could go home a different way. (Wise men walk in place)

## Appendix B

Sing

Taking Out  
the Trash

Pray

Play an  
Instrument

Read  
Bible

Do  
Homework

Play  
Sports

Brush  
Teeth

# Appendix C

## *Leading someone to put their faith in Jesus*

### **Steps to Peace with God** (Billy Graham Evangelistic Association)

#### **STEP 1: GOD'S PURPOSE: PEACE AND LIFE**

God loves you and wants you to experience peace and life—abundant and eternal. The Bible says ...

*"We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." —Romans 5:1*

*"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." —John 3:16*

*"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." —John 10:10*

Why don't most people have this peace and abundant life that God planned for us to have?

#### **STEP 2: THE PROBLEM: OUR SEPARATION**

God created us in His own image to have an abundant life. He did not make us as robots to automatically love and obey Him. God gave us a will and a freedom of choice. We chose to disobey God and go our own willful way. We still make this choice today. This results in separation from God. The Bible says ...

*"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." —Romans 3:23*

*"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." —Romans 6:23*

People have tried in many ways to bridge this gap between themselves and God ... The Bible says ...

*"There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death." —Proverbs 14:12*

*"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear." —Isaiah 59:2*

No bridge reaches God ... except one.

#### **STEP 3: GOD'S BRIDGE: THE CROSS**

Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose from the grave. He paid the penalty for our sin and bridged the gap between God and people. The Bible says ...

*"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ." —1 Timothy 2:5*

*"For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God." —1 Peter 3:18*

*"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."  
—Romans 5:8*

God has provided the only way. Each person must make a choice.

#### **STEP 4: OUR RESPONSE: RECEIVE CHRIST**

We must trust Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and receive Him by personal invitation. The Bible says:

*"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me." —Revelation 3:20*

*"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."  
—John 1:12*

*"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." —Romans 10:9*

**Where are you? Will you receive Jesus Christ right now?** Here is how you can receive Christ:

1. Admit your need (I am a sinner).
2. Be willing to turn from your sins (repent).
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross and rose from the grave.
4. Through prayer, invite Jesus Christ to come in and control your life through the Holy Spirit.  
(Receive Him as Lord and Savior.)

### **PRAYER**

*Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior. In Your Name. Amen.*

**God's Assurance: His Word** If you prayed this prayer, the Bible says ...

*"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." —Romans 10:13*

*"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."*

*—Ephesians 2:8–9*

Receiving Christ, we are born into God's family through the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit who indwells every believer. This is called regeneration, or the "new birth." This is just the beginning of a wonderful new life in Christ.

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