



## **Growth Group Discussion Guide**

*Passage: Mark 14:1-11*

**Introduction:** In this passage, as the religious leaders sought to arrest Jesus, Jesus and his disciples gathered for a meal at the home of man named Simon. During this meal a woman anointed Jesus with very costly perfume. In response to the confusion and frustration of those at the feast, Jesus explains that this woman's act of love was more beautiful than even she understood. This passage reveals what Jesus considers beautiful and challenges us to expression our devotion simply out of love for him.



### **Into the Word**

What aspects of this passage do you find surprising or confusing?

What was unconventional or extraordinary about Mary's act? What motivated Mary?

*Note: Notice how Mark's description of the perfume both explicitly and implicitly reveal its exceedingly great value.*

*Compare: Luke 7:36-50*

Rephrase the disciple's response in your own words. Do you agree with them? Why or Why Not? What does their response reveal about their motivations? (v. 4-5)

How does Jesus challenge the disciple's thinking? What does Jesus find beautiful? How was Mary's extraordinary act even greater than she imagined? (v. 7-8)



### **Into the Heart**

How can we tell what is actually motivating our love for others? Does our motivation matter? If so, why?

Consider: Romans 12:9

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-15** How does the gospel free us to love others?



### **Into the World**

What kinds of opportunities do we have to love others out of love for Jesus? What hinders us from embracing these opportunities when they arise?

What act of love comes to mind as you consider ways to love Jesus? How will you follow through on this "impulse of love"?