



Sermon Discussion Guide

Practicing the Presence of People - James Junior

December 7, 2025

Hook - Getting to know one another

- *How is everyone doing this week? Add other questions to get to know one another, especially ones related to the topic in the sermon.*
- When is a time in the last week or two when you felt truly seen by someone?
- Who is someone in your life who pays good attention to people? What makes them that way?
- What's one "small moment" recently when you slowed down enough to notice something you usually rush past?

Book - Scripture

- *Read the scripture passages and discuss to understand **what the text is saying**:*
- Read Luke 7:36–50. Once quietly, each person to themselves, and a second time out loud as a group.
- Think about the passage and answer a few questions to understand the details of the story:
 - What stands out to you from this story?
 - What surprises or confuses you?
What do you notice about the people involved?
 - What do you notice about Jesus in this story?
 - Why do you think the gospel writer (Luke) included this story in part of his biography of Jesus?
- In Luke 7, who does Simon see? Who does Jesus see?
- What labels or assumptions are at work in the scene?
- What does Jesus' response reveal about the heart of God?
- Where do you see yourself in this passage—Simon, the woman, someone else?



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Look - Connections to our world today

- *This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.*
- What keeps people today from truly seeing one another? (labels, distraction, differences, devices, hurry, etc.)
- Why do you think loneliness is so widespread, even when people are surrounded by others?
- Where is there "Simon-like" seeing in our world: reducing people to labels and judgements, divisions and differences, or limited by distraction?
- Where do you find "Jesus-like" seeing in our culture: fully honoring the dignity and story of another person?
- Why is giving someone our full attention so difficult in our cultural moment?
- What is one relationship in your life that needs more of your presence and focus right now? How might you approach that?

Took - Personal Application

- *This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.*
- Who is one person God may be inviting you to truly "see" this week?
- Where do you sense God inviting you to slow down in your everyday routines?
- What label or assumption do you hold about a specific person or group of people that Jesus might be asking you to release?
- In what part of your life do you need to hear the good news that God sees you?
- What is one small step you could take to practice presence more intentionally—at home, work, or in your community?
- And how does all this relate to the idea of Advent for you?

Time of Prayer