

# Coming Into Focus: An Unreasonable Faith

## Small Group Discussion Guide—4/7/2019

What is the best gift you've ever been given? What details can you remember – who gave it to you, when, etc?

### Read Mark 14:3-9

- This whole scene takes place right before the Lord's Supper, it is on the heels of the climax of the Biblical story.
  - In light of what Jesus has said is about to happen, what stands out about Mary's response to his news compared to everyone else?
  - Why is it remarkable that Mary is the only one who seems to take Jesus's impending death seriously?
  - What can we learn from Mary – what has she done throughout the gospels that has allowed her faith to increase so much?
- The alabaster jar of perfume was likely the family's security for generations. What is Mary symbolically saying by pouring out this expensive jar on Jesus? Do you think her heart begrudgingly did this task? How does this help you think about the things Jesus might ask of you in the future?
- Some of the men rebuked Mary for her actions, saying the money could have been used for the poor.
  - In reality, was the jar going to be used to help the poor?
  - What does this response say about how much they thought was too much to give for Jesus?
  - What would Mary say is too much to give for Jesus?
  - When our hearts are filled with gratitude, zeal and passion are a beautiful thing.
  - What's the difference in giving out of obligation versus giving out of gratitude?
- Do you sometimes struggle to feel the full weight of gratitude for Jesus? If so, could there be part of the Gospel you're not fully grasping? Ask God to reveal to you anything that might be hindering you from fully appreciating the Gospel.
- When our hearts are filled with gratitude towards God, there's nothing too big to give for Him. Has God been asking you to do anything big, or anything that seems challenging? If so, how does Mary's example help you?
- What examples have you seen of other people living out their faith in a way that the world might describe as "unreasonable"?

**Pray as a group and for one another. Thank God for giving us the amazing gift of salvation through Jesus, and ask him to daily fill our hearts with gratitude, producing in us an unreasonable faith.**