



This week we focus on our fourth DNA statement: *We are Authentic + safe ... we live vulnerably, giving one another permission to be real.* It was in all her weariness and shame and weakness that a broken woman came to the feet of Jesus; and in that authenticity (and because of that authenticity) she encountered the heart of God and the fullness of the gospel.

(\*Leaders Note: This week will be primarily about connecting deeply with one another as opposed to learning.)

### REFLECT (30 Minutes)

How has the Holy Spirit been speaking to you through the sermon this week?  
OR  
Was there anything new or interesting that grabbed you from the teaching Sunday?

With who or when in your life have you felt most safe to be honest and to be yourself? Take a moment to share about that unique relationship or season of your life.

The Good News is that Jesus is creating an alternate type of community in the midst of the present world we live in.

1. Do you think our Canadian culture cultivates authenticity? How has Canadian culture shaped you more than gospel culture? Elaborate...
2. How do you think our community group/church can offer and create something that seeks an even better way?

It is easy to say that the church “ought” to be a place where people can be authentic and safe. Why do you think this type of church is difficult to create? What specifically do you think prevents us from being that type of community?

This weekend, Pastor Darren talked about a specific type of posture that is required to truly encounter Jesus. (Picture the woman anointing Jesus’ feet) How does this vary from your typical approach?

### RESPOND (10-15 Minutes)

(\*Leaders Note: This next section of questions is meant to be asked as a series of questions to individuals who are willing to share what is going on in their lives with the group. For sure you will have to contextualize them for each person who chooses to share. Take a brief moment to ask the Holy Spirit to bring things to mind: Not everyone has to answer these questions, but perhaps a few would be so courageous.)

Think deeply about your answer: What current pain or seemingly unmanageable challenge in your life would you hope to escape from?

How do you tend to cope or deal with your pain? (i.e. rationalization, minimization, blaming, escaping...) What does that look like for you?

Connected to this...How has this challenge or pain affected you in the normal everyday parts of your life?

Do you believe God can bring genuine freedom to this area of your life?

In the story of the prodigal son, the younger son was only ready for healing when he admitted that he was powerless and that his life had become unmanageable. What do you think it will take for you to seek God for freedom and healing?.

### PRAYER and Mutual Encouragement (10-15 Minutes)

Take some time to pray for members of your group in specific areas of your lives that you want to surrender to the wisdom, love and resurrection power of God. Be careful to listen and then speak words of encouragement or words of knowledge and wisdom over each other.

#### LEADER NOTES

These questions are a guide; feel free to use/exclude ones as people may have already answered the question or talked about the theme OR if your group takes a long time to tackle one particular theme it's ok to skip over questions in the interest of time/focus.