



## LESSON 2 FOR LEADERS

### INVITATION

**We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...**

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Forgives So Much!

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 7

**WORD OF WONDER:** From Matthew 11:28

Have you ever had to forgive someone, but you didn't really want to? Or maybe you were told to forgive someone and said, "I forgive you," but deep down you didn't really mean it?

Forgiving others can be hard sometimes, especially when they have hurt us. Jesus doesn't merely tell us to forgive others; He embodies the very idea of true forgiveness. He is our living example.

Read Luke 7:36–50. In this passage, Jesus publicly forgives a woman whom the Pharisees least expected Him to forgive. In their eyes this woman was one of the worst women to be associated with. Yet Jesus forgave this woman's sins generously. This woman knew that though her sins were many, Jesus offered forgiveness. This led her to want to serve Jesus sacrificially, her sacrifice in turn demonstrating her deep love for Him.

What would it be like to forgive someone in your life generously? It isn't easy, but as we receive God's generous love and forgiveness, we too become able to forgive others.

Take a moment to rest in God's generous love and forgiveness for you. Receive it, thank Him for it, and ask Him to help you extend it to others. What a generous, loving gift from our Savior!

—**Ana Dutton**

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## LESSON 2 FOR LEADERS

### JESUS IS ANOINTED

#### DID YOU KNOW?

#### FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

##### WHO?

Simon the Pharisee was an influential Jew who promoted certain purity laws and traditions. The sinful woman may have been a prostitute, given her apparent reputation.

##### WHAT?

While Jesus ate dinner at the house of Simon the Pharisee, a sinful woman washed Jesus' feet with her tears, kissed them, and poured perfume on them. The woman's acts demonstrated her gratitude and love for Jesus, the generous forgiver of her many sins.

##### WHERE?

Though the town in this story is unnamed, Jesus had been traveling around the region of Galilee. Luke 7 starts in Capernaum, on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee. In verse 11, Jesus goes to Nain, which was nine miles southeast of Nazareth.

##### WHEN?

This story takes place relatively early in Jesus' ministry, as He had just chosen the 12 disciples in the previous chapter. Even so, Jesus had done enough at this point that news about Him was spreading far (see Luke 7:17).

##### CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

This story highlights Jesus' willingness to forgive sinful people. It points ahead to the cross, where Jesus made the way for the complete removal of sin. Jesus' love is transformative, compelling His followers to love greatly because they've been forgiven much.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

## LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

### Play Stations

**SUPPLIES:** assorted toy coins (at least 15), coloring utensils

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Jesus Is Anointed Coloring Sheet (1 per kid)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

**Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?**

#### Play Station: Counting Coins

**Set-up:** Set out assorted toy coins.

**Play:** Invite kids to count out five or 10 coins. Ask which number of coins is bigger: five or 10? What are their favorite coins—and why? Can they stack coins? Can they toss them in the air, so they land with heads up?

#### Play Station: Jesus Is Anointed Coloring Sheet

**Set-up:** Print one copy per kid of the Coloring Sheet. Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

**Play:** Let the kids color. Encourage kids to draw their favorite pair of stinky shoes or something they think smells good.



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## LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

### Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to show us how to live. And thank You that He died on the cross so our sins can be forgiven. Jesus forgives so much—and we're thankful for that! Through Your Holy Spirit, let us learn more about You today. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

### God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this called? The Bible

Ask: Why is the Bible special? Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.

**Tell the Bible Story**

Read the script provided below or read Luke 7:36–50 from the Bible.

**In our story today, Jesus went to a meal. On this day, Jesus was sitting for dinner at Simon's home. At dinners like this, the important people sat at the table and talked with each other. Other people could come and listen, but they didn't get to eat the good food. Jesus helped people learn to live in a way that pleased God. He forgave their sins. Sins are the wrong things we do. A woman who had done lots of wrong things came in. She carried a special jar of perfume. She knelt at Jesus' feet while she cried and wiped her tears on His feet with her hair. She kissed His feet and poured perfume on them.**

**Simon got upset because the woman came to his dinner and touched Jesus' feet. He said Jesus shouldn't let her touch Him because she had sinned! So Jesus told this story: "Two people owed someone money. One owed 500 silver coins. The other owed 50 silver coins. The man let them go without paying. Which of them will love him more?" (From Luke 7:41–42.)**

**Simon said the one who owed the most money would love the man more—and Jesus agreed. Jesus said the woman showed great love for Him. "I came into your house," Jesus told Simon. "You did not give me any water to wash my feet. But she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair" (Luke 7:44). The woman loved Jesus better**

than Simon loved Jesus.

Then Jesus said to the woman, “Your sins are forgiven” (Luke 7:48). Other people at the dinner didn’t know how Jesus could forgive sins. Jesus told the woman she was saved because of her faith. Jesus is ready to forgive anyone. Jesus forgives so much!

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did Jesus go to Simon’s house? *(to have dinner)*
2. Why didn’t Simon want Jesus to be near the woman? *(She’d done wrong things.)*
3. What was in the woman’s jar? *(perfume)*
4. What did Jesus do for the woman? *(forgave her sins)*
5. How do you think the woman felt when Jesus forgave her sins?
6. The woman poured out her perfume to show she loved Jesus. How can you show that you love Jesus?
7. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus forgives you?

Jesus forgave the woman’s sins, and He still forgives sins. We all do wrong things—that’s sin. But Jesus will forgive our sins, no matter what we’ve done. Let’s be thankful that Jesus forgives so much!

### Word of Wonder

#### WORD OF WONDER

Come to me, all who are tired. I will give you rest.

— Matthew 11:28



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## LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

### Game: Is This You?

Invite the kids to sit down. **We're going to play a game, and I'm going to say something that might be true about you. If it is, jump up and shout, "Jesus forgives so much!" and then sit down again. If what I say is not true about you, just stay seated.**

Call out the following statements and pause after each one to allow the kids to stand up and say, "Jesus forgives so much!" if the statement is true for them:

- I have a brother.
- I have a sister.
- I have a dog.
- I have a cat named Mr. Whiskerdoodles.
- I can do a somersault.
- I like to sing.
- I play soccer.
- My favorite color is green.
- I am wearing the color blue right now.
- My name starts with the letter **B**.
- Jesus can forgive me.

Be sure everyone stands for the last statement. **Even when we do wrong things, Jesus loves us and still wants to be our friend. And if we ask Him to forgive us, He will. We can be thankful that Jesus can take our sins away!**

## LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

### Responding in Worship: Disappearing Sins

**SUPPLIES:** disposable tablecloths, bins (1 per every 5 kids), water, black permanent marker (leader only), paper towels (1 per kid), washable markers (1 per kid), lined trash can (optional)

Before kids arrive, place tablecloths where kids will work. Fill the bins halfway with water and put them out on the tablecloths. Ahead of time, use the permanent marker to draw a heart on a piece of paper towel for each child.

**Today we discovered Jesus forgives so much! When He forgives us, He takes our sins away. Let's have some fun seeing how that looks.**

Gather kids and give each child a paper towel and a washable marker. First, invite kids to draw a picture of something people do that is sinful. Remind them that sin is anything we say, think, or do that is not what God wants. If they need help thinking, offer examples such as disobeying a leader, telling a lie, or hurting a friend. Next, have kids dip their paper towels in the water in the bin. If kids move their towels around a bit, the washable marker will come off, and the heart will remain. Once they see that the picture is erased and the heart is still on their towel, encourage the kids to carefully throw away their wet paper towels and dry off their hands.

**When Jesus forgave the woman's sins, those sins disappeared forever. When Jesus forgives our sins, He takes those sins away too. Jesus forgives so much—I'm so glad He forgives us!**

**Leader Tip:** This activity takes some patience, so encourage kids to take their time when gently moving their towels underwater.

