



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**

Children's Ministry

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Wonder Ink

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: plastic bin, water, cups, measuring spoons, various small measuring items, coloring utensils

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: Water World

Set-up: Fill a bin with water. Place cups, measuring spoons, and various small measuring items nearby.

Play: Encourage kids to experiment with scooping up water and pouring it into other containers or over their own hands. Challenge kids to pour water from a larger to a smaller container to see how much water will fit and how much will overflow.



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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

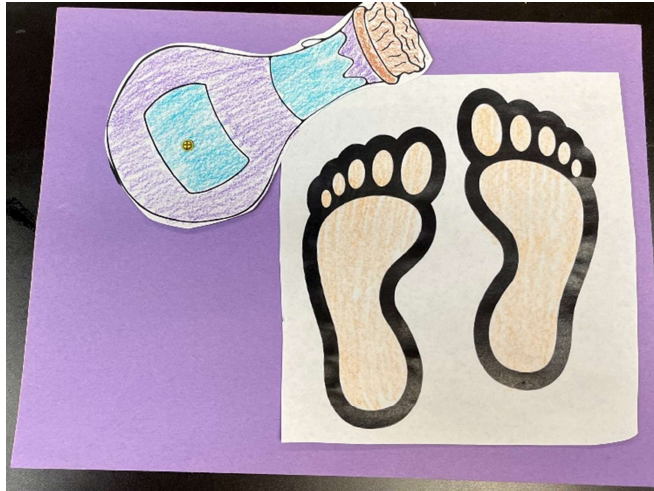
Come to me, all who are tired. I will give you rest.

— Matthew 11:28

LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Craft: Anoint with Perfume

SUPPLIES: construction paper, feet template, perfume bottle template, brad fastener, coloring utensils



The woman who brought perfume to Jesus had a jar to hold it. We're going to decorate a jar and then glue some feet to a paper. We will attach our perfume jar to our paper and you can pretend to pour the perfume on Jesus' feet, just like the woman.

Allow kids to color their jars and glue the feet template to their construction paper. Then assist them in attaching the perfume jar to the paper using the brad fastener.

When you see your picture, be reminded of the woman and her perfume. Jesus forgave her, and He can forgive us too! Jesus doesn't just forgive small things: He forgives all the things we do wrong! He forgives so much!