

Jesus Forgives a Sinful Woman

Overview



Materials You'll Need

- construction paper (8.5 by 11)
- stapler
- markers (permanent and washable)
- fat craft sticks
- yarn
- hole punch



Scriptures

Lk 7:36-50

Bible Truth Objective(s)

God forgives those who repent

Behavioral Objective(s)

To enable the children to know that Jesus is able to forgive people who have done wrong things, but we must have a repentant heart

Memory Verse

"Your sins are forgiven." (Lk 7:48)



Bible Knowledge

Jesus at Simon the Pharisee's House

In this passage, a Pharisee named Simon (Lk 7:40) invited Jesus to come to eat at his home. This would have been considered a formal meal. In New Testament times, a guest such as a religious teacher would have sat at the main table with the host. Others would sit along the outside wall of the room but could listen to the conversation.

Although the stories seem similar, it is important to note that this story is not the same as the one told in the previous lesson (Mt 26:6-13; Mk 14:3-9; Jn 12:1-8). In last week's lesson, Jesus went to the house of Simon, a leper. No Pharisee would have gone into the house of a leper at that time, since they were seen as unclean. The word "Pharisee" means "separate one." The Pharisees separated themselves from the gentiles and the people they considered sinful. So even though Simon the leper may have been healed by Jesus, it was unlikely any Pharisee would have associated with him, before or after the healing.

It is not entirely clear why Jesus was invited to Simon's house. It is possible that Simon wanted to receive personal honor for inviting a religious figure to his house. It is also possible that he wanted to catch Jesus in some action that was against Old Testament law.

The identity of this sinful woman is unknown, as is the exact nature of her sin. She was not invited to the banquet, but it was not uncommon for uninvited guests to be present. Houses then had easy access, and uninvited guests were often allowed to listen in on the conversation of distinguished rabbis.

By telling the story of the creditor, Jesus wanted to teach those present that the more a person forgives, the more he will love. Jesus might have even implied that Simon had little understanding of God's love and forgiveness, since he doubted Jesus' authority in the first place (Lk 7:39).



Understanding Your Students

Your four- and five-year-olds need to know that Jesus loves them, and He wants them to tell Him they are sorry for doing wrong things. They need to understand that Jesus will forgive them if they are honest about what they have done and ask God to forgive them.

It is not always easy for young children to admit they have done something wrong. They are often scared they might be reprimanded or even yelled at. Or, they may choose to lie to cover up their mistakes. Rather than focusing on the lie, point out how important it is to always tell the truth. God wants all His children to be honest. Also let them know that when they

tell the truth, the grown-ups won't be angry or raise their voices (be sure that the adults follow through with this promise).

To help the children understand repentance and forgiveness, model the use of the words "I'm sorry." Help them be specific about what they are sorry for (e.g. "I am sorry for taking your things without asking you first.") Otherwise, the words won't mean very much in the long run. Model forgiveness also, by showing love to a child who does something wrong, perhaps during class time. Over time, your students will begin to apologize in a meaningful way and show forgiveness to others who may have hurt them.

While they may not be mature enough to understand God's full plan of salvation, we can help them understand that Jesus came to save sinners.



Vocabulary

Forgive

to stop being angry at someone; to pardon someone (e.g. Jesus forgave the woman's sins)

Sinful

to break God's commandments and laws; to have sin; to be evil; to have done wrong things



Before You Teach

The woman in this story demonstrated deep gratitude to Jesus for having forgiven her sins. Although the Bible does not record the kind of sin she had, it is obvious that at some point in her life, she realized that she could no longer live as she did. We do not know how long she had lived in agony, knowing she was a sinner, yet was unable to rid herself of her sins. So when she learned that Jesus was going to be at Simon the Pharisee's house, she went to seek forgiveness.

From the passage, we can see that she went with a contrite and repentant heart. Upon seeing Jesus, she could not hold back her tears and began to cry uncontrollably. That was her way of showing God how sorry she was. But she also knew Jesus had the authority to forgive her past. So she took hold of the opportunity before her and she wiped Jesus' feet dry with her hair. She then anointed His

feet with perfume. This was her way of showing how thankful she was. She realized now that she did not have to live in desperation anymore. She could begin a new life. That is amazing.

Each one of us experienced the same thing this woman did when we were baptized into Christ. All of our sins were cleansed and we were able to begin a new life with a new slate. This is indeed a great grace from our Lord Jesus. What have we done to show God that we are thankful, as the woman in the story did? How have we repaid even a part of what God has given us? The sinful woman did not care she was creating a scene in the house. She only knew that she had to seize that moment and show God her gratitude. Today, let us also take hold of every opportunity to thank God. For example, teaching the words of God to the next generation wholeheartedly is one way we can show God our thanks. As we share God's good news with our students, let us remember all that God has done for us.



Bible Story

In the last lesson, we learned that many of Jesus' friends showed Him how much they loved Him. Do you remember who they were? A man called Simon invited Jesus to his house for a special dinner. Mary, Martha, and Lazarus also went to the dinner and they did special things for Jesus too. Martha helped to cook the food and served Jesus. Lazarus sat close to Jesus to make sure He had someone to talk to. Mary gave Jesus a very expensive gift. Do you remember what it was? It was a bottle of perfume. She took the bottle and poured the perfume on Jesus' head and feet. She even took her own hair to wipe Jesus' feet. These were the things they did to show Jesus how much they loved Him.

A Woman Wants Forgiveness

Today, we are going to hear about a story of a woman who wanted Jesus to forgive her. Do you know what it means to forgive? (Allow students to answer.) To forgive someone is to stop being mad or angry at that person for something he has done. For example, sometimes we get mad at our friends for breaking our things. But if our friends say they are sorry, then we forgive them. That means we stop being mad at them and become good friends with them again. In today's story, the woman wanted to ask Jesus to forgive her. Let's find out what happened.

Simon Invites Jesus to Dinner

One time, as Jesus was travelling and telling others about God, a man He had met invited Him to come to his house for dinner. His name was Simon. (Be sure to remind the students that this is not the same Simon as in the last lesson.) Simon invited Jesus to his house to get to know Him better. Simon also invited some other guests to the dinner.

Many people came to Simon's house that evening. Many people came because they wanted to listen to Jesus speak. The people at that time did not sit at tables with chairs like we do to eat their food. The people would put rugs on the floor to sit on. At meal time, they would put the food on the rug or they would put the food on low tables (like coffee tables today). So the people found a place to sit.

Jesus also found His seat. Then the food was served and the people began to eat.

A Sinful Woman Comes In

While they were eating, someone else walked in. Simon had not invited this person. The person who came in was a woman. She looked very sad. She was sad because she knew she had done many wrong things before. She wanted Jesus to forgive her and help her. This woman came to Simon's house because she had heard that Jesus was there.

In the time of Jesus, people didn't wear shoes like we do. They wore sandals. (Show a picture of sandals.) What do you think would happen if you walked on the dirty, dusty road with sandals? When you walk on the dusty road, of course your feet will easily become dirty. That is why when people went to visit someone, the owner of the house would wash the visitor's feet to show that he cared for them. But when Jesus came to Simon's house for dinner, Simon did not bring out water to wash Jesus' feet.

This sad woman who came to see Jesus wanted to do something for Jesus. She wanted to do something special and loving to show Him that she really wanted Him to forgive her. She came up from behind where Jesus was eating and she started to wash Jesus' feet. Do you know what this woman used to wash Jesus' feet? She did not use water. Instead, this woman was so sad, she began to cry at Jesus' feet. Drip, drip, drip, went her tears because she was so sorry for the wrong things she had done. This woman used her tears to wash Jesus' feet! After the woman wet Jesus' feet with her tears, she did not have a towel to dry His feet with. Can you guess what the woman used to dry Jesus' feet? (Have children guess.) She used her own beautiful long hair. (Remind them that Mary also used her long hair to wipe the perfume off Jesus' feet.) Would you use your hair to wipe someone's feet? (The answer would most likely be "No.") Why not? (Because your hair would get dirty.) But this woman was so sorry and she loved Jesus so much that she used her hair to dry His feet. As she wiped Jesus' feet with her hair she kissed them again and again. Do you know what else she did? She took a beautiful jar with sweet-smelling perfume and rubbed it on Jesus' feet. Can you just imagine how lovely that room would have

smelled? (Teacher could spray perfume in the air and then ask, "Does that smell nice?") She did all of these things because she loved Jesus and was sorry for the wrong things she had done.

Jesus Teaches Simon

Simon saw what this woman was doing to Jesus. Simon thought to himself, "If Jesus was really someone sent from God, He would know that this woman was a bad woman. He should not let her touch Him!" But Jesus knew what Simon was thinking.

"Simon, I have something to tell you", said Jesus. "When I came into your house, you did not give Me any water to wash My feet. This woman has washed my feet with her own tears and she has wiped my feet with her hair. You did not kiss Me but she has kissed my feet again and again, and rubbed perfume on my feet. This is how much she loves me. Even though she's done many wrong things before, she has been forgiven the wrong things that she has done because she loves Me."

Jesus was telling Simon that if he really loved Jesus, he would have done many things to show

Him how much he loves Jesus. But he didn't do any of those things. Even though this woman had done many wrong things, she showed a lot of love for Jesus and so her sins were all forgiven.

Then Jesus turned to the woman and said to her, "Your sins are forgiven because you have shown me how much you love and believe Me. Go in peace."

Do you know what Jesus just did? He told the woman that she doesn't have to be sad any more about all the wrong and bad things she had done before. Jesus forgave her of all her sins. She can be happy that Jesus loves her and she can do things to make Him happy.

Jesus Teaches About Forgiveness

At Simon's house, Jesus taught the people about forgiveness. When someone has done something wrong, if he is truly sorry, he should be forgiven. That means we should not be mad at that person anymore. This woman was very sorry. She showed it by washing Jesus' feet in front of all the people. So Jesus forgave her.



Check For Understanding

1. **Who invited Jesus for dinner?** (Simon.)
2. **Why did the woman come to Simon's house?** (She wanted to see Jesus.)
3. **Why didn't Simon like the woman?** (She had done wrong things; she was a sinner.)
4. **What did the woman do to Jesus to show she loved Him?** (She washed His feet with her tears, wiped them with her hair, kissed them, and rubbed (anointed) them with perfume.)
5. **What did Jesus say to the woman?** (He told her that He forgave her.)
6. **Who loved Jesus more: Simon or the**

woman? (The woman.)

7. **The woman was happy that Jesus had forgiven her and that she could show her love for Him. How can we show Jesus that we are sorry today?** (We can pray to Him and let Him know we are sorry. We can show Him that we are sorry by doing the right thing next time.)
8. **How can we show our love for Jesus today?** (We can make Jesus happy by doing good things, helping out in church and by saying sorry when we do something wrong. We can be honest children and always tell the truth, even when we have done something wrong. Jesus will forgive us when we are sorry.)



Life Application Story

A Visit From Henry and Sam

Aunt Judy and Uncle Joey were coming to visit the Lopez family, and so were the cousins, Henry and Sam. Henry and Sam were about the same ages as Ricky and Juan Lopez. Ricky and Juan were so excited about Sam and Henry coming over. Juan wanted to show Henry this great new football he had received. Ricky had just added three new wooden airplanes to his collection and couldn't wait to show Sam.

When they got there, Henry went out into the backyard to play catch with Juan. Ricky showed Sam his airplane collection. Ricky had sixteen wooden airplanes altogether.

"Wow," said Sam. "Did you put all of these together yourself?"

"Yes, I sure did," Ricky said. "But we can't fly them because they would break. They're not for flying. One of the new airplanes I got took me ages to put together--see the little pieces I had to stick together? Even my dad had to help me out with that one."

Ricky pointed to the airplane at the end. Sam thought it looked so real; the plane looked as if it would fly a long way.

Then the two boys heard Juan yell from the backyard.

"Hey, come outside with us and play ball," called Juan.

That sounded like a good idea.

"Are you coming?" asked Ricky, as he got up.

"I will be there in a minute. I just want to look at this plane one more time," replied Sam. So Ricky left Sam to look at the airplanes. Ricky went outside to play catch with his brother and Henry.

Sam liked Ricky's planes a lot. He picked up the plane on the end and looked at it closely. Sam thought about it for a minute and decided he wanted to fly it. He knew what Ricky had said but he was sure it could fly. He took the airplane with him and went to the backyard.

As Ricky ran for the ball, he saw Sam come outside with one of his airplanes. As Sam threw it into the air, Ricky yelled out, "Stop!" But it was too late. After twirling in the air for a bit, the plane fell

to the ground and landed in many, many pieces.

"Sam! I told you they couldn't fly," Ricky said angrily. "That plane took me a long time to put together."

"I'm sorry. I thought I could just try it. It looked so real that I thought it really could fly," Sam said.

Ricky picked up all the pieces and threw them in the trash by the back door. Then he stormed inside and sat down on the couch. Ricky was sad and angry at the same time. He had told Sam that the planes weren't for flying. Why didn't Sam listen to him? Ricky's dad, Mr. Lopez saw what had happened and came and sat down next to him.

"I know how much you liked that plane," Ricky's dad said.

"I told Sam that they couldn't fly. He decided to launch it anyway," Ricky said.

"Sometimes, we do things that we know are wrong. We know we shouldn't do it but a part of us tells us we want to try it anyway. Usually, we are sorry we did it. I am sure that Sam is sorry that he broke your plane. Remember what God teaches us? He always forgives us when we ask Him to forgive us. He wants us to do the same to others. He doesn't want us to stay mad," Mr. Lopez said.

Ricky sat there and thought about what his dad was saying. It was true. He thought about how just last week, he took his dad's cell phone without asking him and lost it at school. He was really sorry and asked his dad and God to forgive him. He was glad his dad and God were not mad at him now.

"You know what, Dad? You're right. God forgives me for all the wrong things I do. I should not be mad at Sam anymore," said Ricky.

Ricky's dad gave him a big hug.

"Let's go back out and talk to Sam. I am sure he is sorry and sad. And you know what? Maybe we can go sometime next week and get you another airplane kit."

"That sounds great!" Ricky said with a smile.

Questions to Think About

1. **What did Sam do that made Ricky angry and sad?** (Sam took one of Ricky's model airplanes and flew it into the air. It landed on the ground and broke into many pieces.)
2. **What did Mr. Lopez, Ricky's dad, tell Ricky?** (He told him that Sam was sorry. Sometimes people do things they know they shouldn't. But when

we ask God to forgive us, He always forgives us.)

3. **What did Ricky decide to do?** (He knew that he should not stay mad at Sam, and should forgive him. He knew that would make God happy.)
4. **Have you been mad at someone for breaking something that belonged to you? What happened?** (Allow students to share. It doesn't have to be something that is broken. It can be any incident where they got mad at another person for something wrong that person did.)
5. **What does it mean to forgive another person?**



Activity 1

A Woman Asks Jesus to Forgive Her

Cut out the page along the solid lines. Then fold into a book. Review the story with the students. Be sure to discuss what it means to have sin and to ask for forgiveness. Color in the pictures.



Activity 2

The Scribbling on the Wall

Look at the top strip. What is happening? (The boy scribbles on the wall but when his dad asks him what happened, he lies and runs away.) Then look at the bottom strip. What is happening? (The boy scribbles on the wall and when his dad asks him what happened, he tells the truth and says he is sorry. His dad forgives him.) Which one do you think Jesus wants us to do? Which boy is sorry and asked for forgiveness?



Activity 3

Jesus Hears Our Prayers

Materials:

1. construction paper (8.5 x 11 inches)
2. stapler
3. permanent markers
4. fat craft sticks
5. washable markers
6. yarn
7. hole punch

Directions:

1. Provide each student with a piece of construc-

(It means we have to stop being mad. We need to be friends with that person again, even though it may be hard. God says that if we want Him to forgive us for the wrong things we do, we need to forgive others first for the wrong things they do.)

6. **If we do something wrong, how can we ask God to forgive us?** (We can pray to Him, tell Him we are sorry, and more importantly, we need to do the right thing next time.)

tion paper. Help them fold it three-fourths of the way (length-wise) to create a pocket.

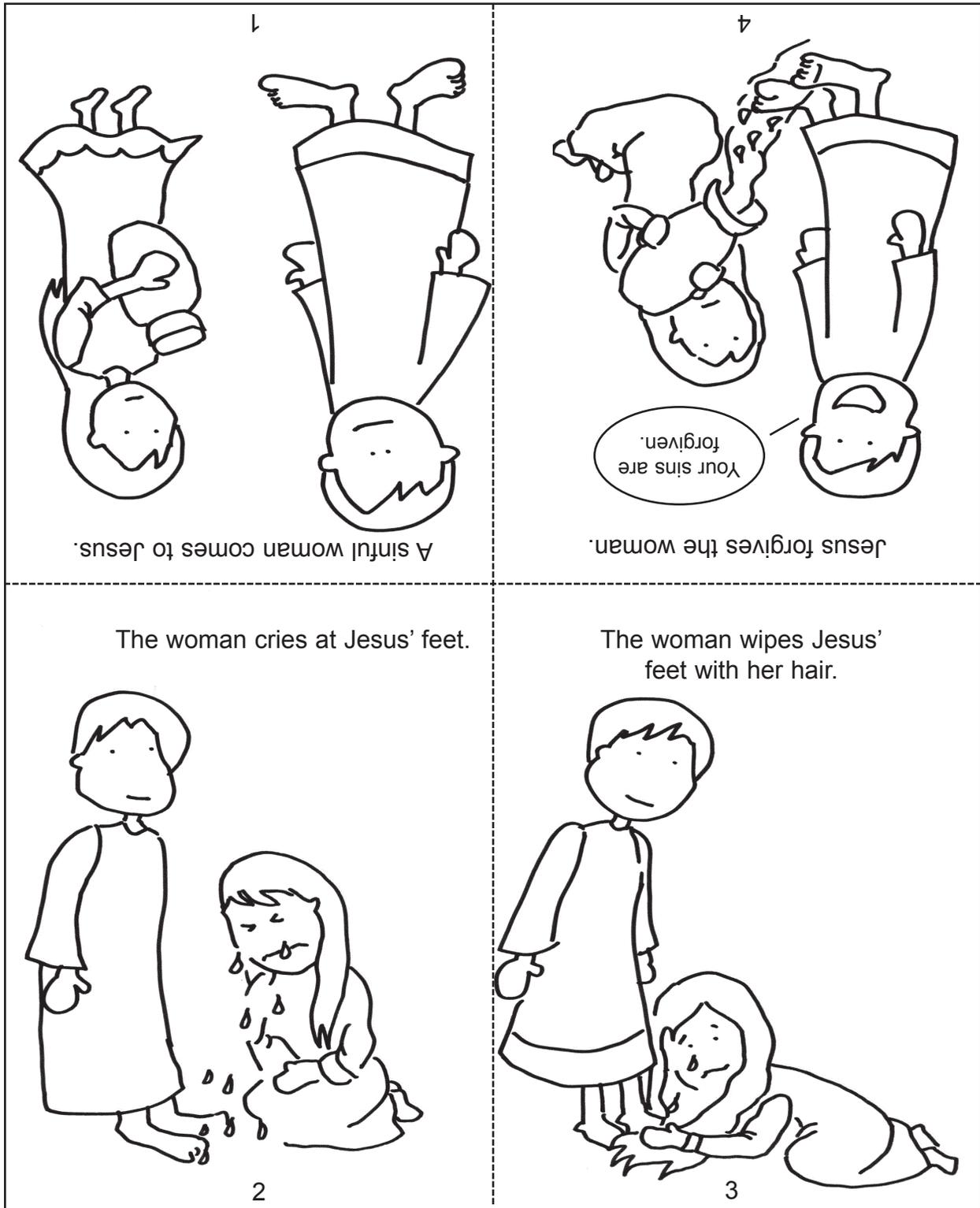
2. Staple the two sides to make the pocket.
3. On the front of the pocket, help the students write the words, "Jesus Hears Our Prayers."
4. Help the students punch two holes on the top of the pocket. String a short piece of yarn through the holes to create a hanging.
5. Give each student three fat craft sticks. On each craft stick, help students write down something they can pray for. It can be a request for something or something they want to ask Jesus to forgive. Take some time to brainstorm with the class before they begin to write down their prayer requests.
6. After they have written their prayer requests, help them insert their sticks into the pocket. Encourage them to pull out one stick each night and pray to God about the item they have written down. The teacher may also provide the students with some blank craft sticks so they can add other requests as they think of them. This is a good project to coordinate with the parents so that the students have a focus when they are praying to God each day.



Activity 6:1

A Woman Asks Jesus to Forgive Her

Cut out the page along the solid lines. Then fold into a book. Color in the pictures.



A sinful woman comes to Jesus.

Jesus forgives the woman.

The woman cries at Jesus' feet.

The woman wipes Jesus' feet with her hair.

Activity 6:2

The Scribbling on the Wall

Look at the top strip. What is happening? Then look at the bottom strip. What is happening? Which one do you think Jesus wants us to do? Which boy is sorry and asked for forgiveness?

