

Family Lesson 60

Principle: Forgiveness leads to worship.

Bible Character(s): Jesus and the sinful woman

Scripture Reference: Luke 7: 36-50

- 1. Worship** - Gather your family and play the [worship video](#) found on the curriculum resource page. Have fun, sing loudly, and follow along with the motions!
- 2. Skit Video** - Watch the [skit video](#) with your family to hear a special message about what you will be learning this weekend.
- 3. Bible Lesson** - Read through the lesson with your family. The bold font is meant to be read aloud along with the Scripture references.

Bible Lesson

Last week, we learned about how Jesus taught the disciples that they do not need to worry about anything. Why shouldn't we worry? (Because God loves us all so much and he has everything in control.) **When we worry about something, what are we doing?** (We are not trusting in God's plan. We are doubting that God can and wants to give us everything we need.)

This week, we are going to learn about our greatest need—forgiveness of our sins. Some of us have recognized that we are sinners and need to be forgiven. But some of us do not know that we are sinners and need to be forgiven. We are going to read about a sinful woman who comes to Jesus. Let's begin reading the Bible in Luke 7 [NLT].

Luke 7:36

³⁶ One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to have dinner with him, so Jesus went to his home and sat down to eat.

A Pharisee is a religious leader of the Jews, similar to a priest or a pastor. They were very careful to follow all the rules. They looked down on people who did not follow the rules. A lot of the Pharisees did not believe that Jesus was God. Let's continue to read the Bible.

Luke 7:37-38

³⁷ When a certain immoral woman from that city heard he was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume. ³⁸ Then she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping. Her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing his feet and putting perfume on them.

Why do you think this woman came to Jesus and cleaned his feet with her tears and perfume? (Allow responses.) This was her way of showing Jesus how much she loved him. She came to worship Jesus. Let's continue to read the Bible and see what the Pharisee thought about this woman.

Luke 7:39

³⁹ When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. She's a sinner!"

The Pharisee knew that this woman was a sinner. He would not talk to her because she had sinned. Do you think the Pharisee was a sinner? (Allow responses.)

Let's take a closer look at who is a sinner.

Explain to your child that you are going to read through a list of sins. As you read, they should think about times they might have sinned in that

way. Continue through the list of sins, allowing them time to think.

1. Misusing God's name
2. Worshiping another god/idol
3. Stealing something
4. Disobeying parents
5. Being selfish toward a sibling
6. Lying

How many of us have sinned before? (Allow responses.) **ALL of us! The Bible shows us that we are all sinners. Romans 3:23 says, "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard." Our sin separates us from God. There is nothing we can do to cleanse ourselves of our sin and make things right with God. The woman in our passage was a sinner. The Pharisee was a sinner. We are all sinners.**

The woman in this story understood that she was a sinner. The Pharisee did not understand that he was also a sinner. The woman came to Jesus and worshiped him because she believed that he could save her. She knew that she could not do anything about her sin. She believed in who Jesus was, and knew she needed Jesus to save her. Let's continue to read the Bible, and see the Pharisee's reaction and Jesus' reaction.

Luke 7:40-47

⁴⁰ Then Jesus answered his thoughts. "Simon," he said to the Pharisee, "I have something to say to you."

"Go ahead, Teacher," Simon replied.

⁴¹ Then Jesus told him this story: "A man loaned money to two people—500 pieces of silver to one and 50 pieces to the other. ⁴² But neither of them could repay him, so he kindly forgave them both, canceling their debts. Who do you suppose loved him more after that?"

⁴³ Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the larger debt."

"That's right," Jesus said. ⁴⁴ Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Look at this woman kneeling here. When I entered your home, you didn't offer me water to wash the

dust from my feet, but she has washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You didn't greet me with a kiss, but from the time I first came in, she has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶ You neglected the courtesy of olive oil to anoint my head, but she has anointed my feet with rare perfume.

⁴⁷ "I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love."

Have you ever done something wrong and not been punished? (Allow responses.) **Have you ever been given something and not had to pay for it?** (Allow responses.) **When you get a present for your birthday that you love, how do you respond to the person who gave it to you?** (Allow responses.) **If you were hanging from a cliff and someone saved your life, how would you respond to that person?** (Allow responses.) **Jesus saved this woman from her sin. She knew that the only thing she deserved for her sin was death. She responded in worship and showed him much love.**

Let's continue reading the Bible in Luke.

Luke 7:48-50

⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to the woman, "Your sins are forgiven."

⁴⁹ The men at the table said among themselves, "Who is this man, that he goes around forgiving sins?"

⁵⁰ And Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

This woman knew she was a sinner, and knew she needed to be saved. Jesus is the only one who could save her, and the only one who can save us. 1 John 1:9 tells us "If we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness." How did this woman respond to Jesus for forgiving her of her sins? (Allow responses.) **She responded to Jesus by worshiping him. What does it mean to worship?** (Allow responses.) **Worship is**

recognizing who God is and responding to what he has done. This woman knew how great Jesus is and worshiped him because he saved her from her sins. Our response should be the same. We should worship Jesus because of who he is and what he has done for us.

As a family, look up Luke 7:47. **This verse should help you remember that you are a sinner. You need to be forgiven because there is nothing you can do on your own to save yourself. Remember that Jesus can forgive your sins. When we recognize that we are sinners, we can come to Jesus for forgiveness. When we confess our sin, he will forgive us, just as he did the sinful woman. We should worship him for how amazing he is and what he has done for us.**

This woman responded to Jesus' forgiveness by showing him much love. The way she acted shows us how we can respond to the forgiveness we are given for our sins. God wants us to worship him with our lives. The only thing we deserve for our sin is death, but God sent Jesus as our Savior so that we can live forever with him. Our response should be to worship him with every part of our lives, every single day. We came up with some great ways to show our love in worshiping him, and we should always be thinking about how we can worship him every moment of the day.

Prayer

Spend a few minutes in prayer to close the lesson. Thank God for forgiving our sins when we ask. Ask him to help us love him and worship him every day.

Activity

We have been forgiven!

The purpose is to help the campers understand that we worship because we, too, have been forgiven for much and our lives have been saved. Worship should be our response to God.

Supplies:

Bag or pillowcase

Heavy objects such as a brick, rocks, or weights

(Pillowcase or bag should be weighted, but light enough that your child can lift it to shoulder height or above.) Have each child take turns picking up the bag and putting it on their shoulders (like you would a backpack). Ask them to lift their hands high towards the sky while holding the bag. Then have them take the bag off to see how much more freedom there is to lift their hands and move around.

Was it difficult to move your arms when you had the bag on your back? (Allow responses.) When the bag was removed, could you move around more easily? (Allow responses.) It feels better not to carry around a heavy weight, doesn't it? Our sin is a heavy weight that leads to death. It keeps us from God just like the heavy bag kept you from being able to move around a lot. When our sins are forgiven, we should worship God because he has saved us. The woman knew her sin was weighing her down. She knew how much she needed God to save her. When Jesus forgave her sins, she worshiped God fully and showed him much love. Play your favorite worship song and sing/worship together!

