



LESSON 60

3rd and 4th Grade

Principle: Forgiveness leads to worship.

Bible Character(s): Jesus and the sinful woman

Scripture Reference: Luke 7:36-50



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, read Luke 7:36-50. Notice that

this woman's courageous devotion was inspired by profound gratitude for the love Christ had shown her. She was aware of her sin and need for a Savior. The woman's "sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love." (Luke 7:47) Our own salvation is no less a miracle than hers, and yet our response to God's saving grace can be vastly different from hers. In this lesson, we will review the concept of sin and have the campers examine their own sin. We will help guide the campers to see their need for a Savior, and give them hope as we see that Jesus has the power to forgive. He forgave the crippled man who was brought to him by his friends, and He forgave this woman. He is willing to forgive us if we ask. We will also examine the woman's response to the forgiveness she experienced, and what our response should be. Only people who realize how much God hates sin and how sinful they are can fully appreciate God's forgiveness and respond in worship. Worship is a natural response when we fully realize this. Do you realize how sinful you are? Do you see Christ as your only hope? What is your daily response to God's grace? Spend a few minutes in prayer, thanking God for His gracious love in offering forgiveness to our undeserving hearts. Think about how you respond in worship to God's grace, and be ready to share this with your campers.

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

Hot Potato

Supplies:

Ball

Have everyone stand or sit in a circle. Tell the children about a time when you forgave someone for

something. Toss the potato (or ball) to the child on your right and say, "hot potato!" Now it's that person's turn to share with everyone how he or she forgave someone. Let children pass the potato, sharing their stories. Once the "potato" lands in your hands, share a time when you had to ask God for forgiveness for something.



BIG GROUP Time - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts – fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

**Take your cabin flag to Big Group.*

The Bridge to Small Group

Today we will examine our sin and our response to Jesus' gift of forgiveness to us.

Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn about in Big Group? What happened to the hikers? (One hiker got into a bad situation and needed help.) What was special to one of the hikers? (His backpack.) If the backpack was so special, why did he give it away? (He was so thankful that he was rescued.) Can you think of any times where you needed help? (Allow responses.) Have you ever needed to be rescued? (Allow responses.)

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.

Does anyone remember what a Pharisee is? (Allow responses.) 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 reading 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 a sinner is.

We're All Sinners



The purpose is to help the campers identify themselves as sinners.

Supplies:

Wooden ruler (1 per camper)

Markers

Give each camper a ruler. Help the campers understand that each of them has sinned. Read Romans 3:23 to them and have them write this verse on their ruler.

Tie It Together



We use rulers to measure things. We can measure the length of this table. We can measure the height of our Bibles. Did you know that we can also measure ourselves? We do not use rulers to measure ourselves; we use the Bible. We can look at what the Bible says about who we are. We can measure ourselves to see that we are sinners. The Bible tells us that God is perfect, holy, and sinless. We can see what the Bible says about who we are to see how we measure up to God.

Let's look at some verses and see how we measure up. Read Matthew 7:12. Do you treat others well? Have you disobeyed this verse? (Allow responses.) Everyone has sinned in this way at some point in his or her life. Read Ephesians 6:1. Have you always obeyed your parents? (Allow responses) We are all sinners, just like this woman. Romans 3:23 says "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard." None of us measure up to God's standard of perfection and without sin, no matter what we do or how good we are. The Pharisee was a sinner, the woman was a sinner and we are sinners.

The woman in this story realized that she was a sinner, and she did not measure up to who Jesus was. The Pharisee did not see that he was also a sinner. The woman came to Jesus and worshipped Him because she believed that He could save her. She knew that she could not do anything about her sin. She 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.

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. She knew she could do nothing to change that. She knew she needed a Savior because the punishment for sin is death. Jesus is the only one who can save her and the only one that can save us. I 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 in worship. What is worship? (Allow responses.) Worship is acknowledging who God is and responding to what He has done. This woman knew how great Jesus is and worshipped 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.

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 with bricks/rocks/weights (1 per bin)

(Pillowcase or bag should be weighted, but light enough that campers can lift it to shoulder height or above.) Have the campers 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.

Tie It Together



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.

Forgiveness Leads to Worship



The purpose is to provide a reminder to the campers that they can be forgiven, and they can respond with worship.

Supplies:

Worksheet – “Luke 7:47” side (1 per camper)

Strip with 2 “forgiven” cutouts (1 strip of 2 per camper)

Give each camper a strip with two copies of the word “forgiven” and have them cut the words out. Then have the campers fill in the blanks on the worksheet, by gluing the word “forgiven” in place.

Tie It Together



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.

Responding in Worship



The purpose is to help the campers recognize ways they can respond in worship to God's grace and forgiveness.

Supplies:

Worksheet – “Responding in Worship” side (1 per camper)

Have the campers turn to the other side of their worksheets and ask them to write or draw pictures of ways they can respond in worship to God's grace and forgiveness (or ways they can show God they love Him and are thankful for what He has done for them). Some ideas: prayer, singing, reading your Bible, obeying parents, loving others well, sharing, giving to those in need, etc.

Tie It Together



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 worshipping Him, and we should always be thinking about how we can worship Him every moment of the day.

Prayer Time

Spend a few minutes in prayer to close small group time. Thank God for forgiving our sins when we ask. Ask Him to help us love Him and worship Him every day.

