

An illustration depicting a scene from the Bible. On the left, Jesus is shown with a long dark beard and hair, wearing a white robe with a blue sash. He is looking down towards a woman on the right. The woman has dark hair and is wearing a red headscarf and a red garment. She is looking up at Jesus with a reverent expression. The background is a soft, warm light, suggesting an indoor setting. The overall style is a soft, painterly illustration.

UNIT 24 | SESSION 3

JESUS WAS ANOINTED

LUKE 7

KEY PASSAGE: Jeremiah 29:12-13

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is prayer? Prayer is talking with God to praise Him, ask Him for help, and confess our sins.

CHRIST CONNECTION: Everyone has sinned and owes a debt they could never repay. Jesus, the only sinless one, died in our place to pay the debt for our sin. When we trust in Jesus, we are forgiven of all our sins and are credited with Jesus' perfect life.

STORY POINT: Jesus forgave a woman's sins.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

It can be easy to believe the lie that we need to attain a certain standard of productivity or purity before approaching the Lord. Today's passage, however, reveals that the Lord is pleased when we approach Him in humility and in our weakness.

In Luke 7, we find Jesus in the home of Simon the Pharisee, reclining at a table in the presence of a notable sinner. This woman sought out Jesus but hadn't come empty-handed. She knew she wasn't invited, yet she pursued Jesus' presence and offered Him a costly gift. Not allowing guilt, shame, fear, lack, or social niceties to stop her, she was led by faith to worship the Savior.

Watching this interaction unfold in his home, Simon said to himself, "If this man were really a prophet, He would know who and what kind of woman was touching Him—she's a sinner!" Yet the woman's sins are not what she is known for today; she has been remembered in Scripture for her bold belief and costly sacrifice.

Ironically, Simon thought Jesus didn't know the woman's heart, but Jesus proved He knew about the woman's history and what Simon was thinking as well. Jesus shared a parable about a creditor with two debtors, one owing more than the other. The creditor was gracious and forgave both debts, so who would love him more? Simon understood it was the one who received more forgiveness than the other.

Jesus reminded the Pharisee that when He entered his house, Simon didn't wash His feet, kiss Him in greeting, or anoint His head with oil. This woman, however, went so far as to find Jesus, wash and wipe His feet with her hair, kiss His feet, and anoint them. Both the Pharisee and the woman needed a Savior, yet she was the only one aware of this need.

This week, lead the boys and girls in your class to understand they too owe God a debt they cannot repay due to sin. But help them also see that God does not expect them to repay Him because Jesus willingly took our place on the cross—taking sin and providing righteousness for all who believe in Him.



Scan the QR code to listen to The Gospel Project for Kids Weekly Leader Training Podcast.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10–15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



LEARN

25–30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



LOVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- ☐ "What is that Smell?" activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)

- ☐ cotton balls
- ☐ ziplock bags
- ☐ fragrant liquids
- ☐ Allergy Alert

Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ painter's tape



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



LIVE

Reflection and Prayer

- ☐ Bible story coloring page



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video
- ☐ Story Point Poster

Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ "Jesus Was Anointed" video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

Questions from Kids

- ☐ "Unit 24, Session 3" Questions from Kids video

Missions Moment

- ☐ "Moore Family Photo" printable

Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ game spinners
- ☐ sticky notes
- ☐ "With All Your Heart (Jeremiah 29:12-13)" song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “How do you welcome a guest into your home? Do you tidy up your house before you have guests? Do you offer them a drink or special seat?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete the “What is that Smell?” activity page.

SAY “Today we will learn how **JESUS FORGAVE A WOMAN’S SINS** after she came and worshiped at His feet. I am looking forward to sharing this story with you.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: GUESS THE SMELL



Before this activity, soak several cotton balls in different fragrant liquids and seal each cotton ball in a plastic bag. Label each scent a certain number. For example, label each bag with the vanilla extract Bag 1. Make several sets. Direct kids to sit around tables and distribute a set of cotton balls to each table. Direct kids to find bag number 1, open it, smell the cotton ball, and then pass it to the next person at the table. Challenge kids to figure out what the scent is but keep their answers to themselves. Once each kid has had a chance to smell the fragrance, ask kids to shout out what they think they smelled. Repeat with different fragrances.

SAY “You identified several different sweet smells. That reminds me of perfume, which we’ll hear about today in a story of how **JESUS FORGAVE A WOMAN’S SINS**. The woman worshiped Jesus by washing His feet and pouring perfume on them.”

☐ OPTION 2: HOW FAR CAN YOU JUMP?



Make a starting line on the floor using painter’s tape. Then make another line about 10 to 15 feet across the room. Direct kids to line up behind the starting line. Challenge the first kid to try to jump to the line across the room. Mark where he lands with a small piece of tape with his name on it. Continue until each kid has had a chance to jump. Announce the kid who jumped the farthest but then ask if anyone was able to make it to the other tape line. Allow kids to respond. Explain that it was impossible to jump to the other tape line because it was too far away.

SAY “Similar to how you couldn’t jump to the other line, none of us can pay the price our sins deserve. Only Jesus could do that, which is why He came to die in our place. Today we will learn about how **JESUS FORGAVE A WOMAN’S SINS**.”





INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “Hi, kids! I am so glad you’re here. My name is [your name], and I get to share a true story from the Bible with you. If you have a Bible with you, will you take it out? [Distribute Bibles to kids who don’t have one.] Today we get to hear the story of how **JESUS FORGAVE A WOMAN’S SINS**. The Bible tells us that we are all sinners and all need to be forgiven. Jesus came to pay the price for our sins so that everyone who trusts Him as Savior will have their sins forgiven. As we prepare to hear our story from God’s Word, let’s ask God to help us hear what He wants to teach us today. ‘Lord, thank You for the Bible. Help us to listen and respond to what You show us through Your Word. In Jesus’ name, amen.’ ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

SAY “As we study God’s Word together, we like to think about a big picture question and answer that helps us focus on a truth from God’s Word. Does anyone remember our big picture question? [Allow responses.] Our big picture question is: **What is prayer?** Do you remember the answer to this question? [Allow responses.] **Prayer is talking with God to praise Him, ask Him for help, and confess our sins.** The Bible tells us that we have all sinned, but that God sent Jesus to pay the price for our sins. Anyone who trusts Him as Savior will have their sins forgiven and is credited with Jesus’ perfect life. Through prayer, we can trust Jesus as Savior and praise Him for all that He has done. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “During Jesus’ ministry on earth, He traveled around bringing the good news, healing the sick, and even raising the dead. He proved that He is the Promised Messiah whom the prophets had foretold. Today we will see how **JESUS FORGAVE A WOMAN’S SINS**. The woman was so thankful for Jesus that she washed His feet and anointed Him with perfume. ”



LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Luke 7. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus Was Anointed.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

JESUS WAS ANOINTED

“One of the Pharisees named Simon invited Jesus to dinner at his house. While Jesus was reclining at the table, a sinful woman carrying a jar of perfume came to Him. She stood behind Jesus at His feet and was crying. Then she began to wash His feet with her tears. She wiped His feet with her hair, kissed them, and rubbed perfume on them.

The Pharisee thought to himself, “If this man were a prophet, He would know who is touching Him and what kind of woman she is—she’s a sinner!”

Jesus knew what Simon was thinking. He said, “Simon, I have something to say to you.”

“Say it, Teacher,” replied Simon.

Jesus said, “A man let two different people borrow some money. He loaned one man 50 expensive coins, and he loaned the other man 500 expensive coins. Neither of these men were able to pay him back, so he forgave them both, meaning they no longer had to pay him back.

“Who will be more thankful and loving toward the man?” asked Jesus.

Simon answered, “I suppose the one he forgave more—the one who owed 500 coins.”

“You have answered correctly,” Jesus said. “Do you see this woman, Simon? When I entered your house, you did not give Me any water to wash My feet. But this woman has washed My feet with her tears, dried them with her hair, and hasn’t stopped kissing My feet since I came in. You didn’t anoint My head with olive oil, but she has anointed My feet with perfume. I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven. That’s why she loves Me so much. But the one who is forgiven little, loves little.”

Then Jesus turned to the woman and said, “Your sins are forgiven. Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.”

Those who were eating at Simon’s house began to say to themselves, “Who is this man who forgives sins?”

Christ Connection: Everyone has sinned and owes a debt they could never repay. Jesus, the only sinless one, died in our place to pay the debt for our sin. When we trust in Jesus, we are forgiven of all our sins and are credited with Jesus’

STORYTELLING TIPS

Illustrate: Distribute paper and pencils to kids and encourage them to listen for descriptions and events and invite them to illustrate the story as you share.

Questions: Challenge kids to listen for four important things as you tell the story: 1) What did the woman do? 2) How did Jesus respond? 3) How did Simon respond? and 4) What does this story tell us about God? Ask them to share the answers to these questions after you finish telling the story.



| perfect life. ”

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Jesus was invited by one of the Pharisees named Simon to eat dinner at his house. While Jesus sat at the table, a woman came to the house and began washing Jesus’ feet and anointing them with perfume. What did Simon say about the woman who was worshiping Jesus? **[Allow responses.]** Simon declared that the woman touching Jesus’ feet was a sinner, and Simon was upset that Jesus would allow a sinful woman like her to touch Him. Jesus used this opportunity to teach Simon about the forgiveness of sins by telling a parable, or a story, about a forgiven debt. Jesus said that the woman loved Him so much because she had been forgiven of so much. Then, Jesus told the woman her sins had been forgiven and to go in peace. How did the people who saw this respond? **[Allow responses.]** The people were amazed by this and asked who this man was who forgave sins. Only God has the power to forgive sin. God is holy and never overlooks sin. All sin must be paid for, but God provided His Son Jesus to pay the price for our sins.

Everyone has sinned and owes a debt they could never repay. Jesus, the only sinless one, died in our place to pay the debt for our sin. When we trust in Jesus, we are forgiven of all our sins and are credited with Jesus’ perfect life. ”

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY “ Everyone has sinned and owes a debt for that sin. If you would like to know more about trusting Jesus as Savior, please talk to your parents or one of the church leaders. We would love to tell you more. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 24, Session 3” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. How does Jesus wash away sin?
2. Why was Jesus able to pay the debt we owe for our sin?



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

SAY “At a young age, Jonathan Moore began to learn about Jesus. But it was when he was in college and joined Resonate Church that he fully understood the good news about Jesus. This changed Jonathan’s life and his plans for his future.”

Show the “Moore Family Photo” printable. Explain that Jonathan studied engineering, and he planned to work in the aerospace field. But he felt God calling him to something different. Within Resonate Church, Jonathan saw what it meant for people to make sacrifices so others could hear about Jesus and trust Him as their Savior. Jonathan realized he wanted to dedicate his life to helping people know Jesus so they could live with Him forever.

Jonathan joined the Resonate Church staff in 2019, and he began training to begin a new church. In 2021, he and his wife, McKayla, moved to Salt Lake City with a team of about 15 young professionals, recent graduates, and current students to start a new church on the campus of the University of Utah. The Moores’ primary mission field is the college campus, but they hope to reach more people in the community as the church grows. They have seen God at work as many students have chosen to follow God’s plans for their lives.

Starting a new church can be challenging. Pray for the Moores and Resonate Church as they work in a challenging area to teach people about Jesus.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Jeremiah 29:12-13 together.

SAY “Let’s continue memorizing our key passage that reminds us of the important truth that God hears us when we pray.”

Before this activity, write different ways to say the key passage (silly voice, whisper, slow motion, hopping, yelling, etc.) on sticky notes and put one on each section of a large game spinner. Spin the spinner and challenge kids to say the verse together in whatever way the spinner says.

Lead kids to sing “With All Your Heart (Jeremiah 29:12-13).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to pay the price for our sins. Thank You for the forgiveness and new life we have in You when we trust You for salvation. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the New Testament Israel Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Luke 7. Explain that Jesus often used parables, or short stories, to help people understand a truth from God. Today we saw how Jesus used the example of two people who owed money to a man and how the man forgave their debts to illustrate how God forgives our sin when we trust Him.

Consider pointing out the location of Galilee [C5] on the New Testament Israel Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Luke 7:44-47 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

SAY “ After Jesus told the parable of the two men who borrowed money they couldn’t repay, Jesus spoke to Simon. Simon was upset that a sinful woman had come to worship Jesus. Jesus pointed out that Simon had not welcomed or cared for Jesus the way this woman had. He explained that the woman had been forgiven of much and so she was overflowing with praise and gratefulness to the One who had forgiven her. We should have the same response toward God. We have all sinned and those of us who have trusted in Jesus as Savior have been forgiven of all our sins. We have many reasons to praise and worship the Lord, thanking Him for all that He has done for us. ”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “ Is a person ever too bad or too sinful for Jesus to save? ”

No! Jesus is the powerful Savior who took the punishment for sin through His death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead. No sin is too big for Him to forgive, and no person is too far away from Him to save. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Romans 10:9.)

SAY “ Can we do anything or be good enough to earn salvation? ”

The Bible tells us that Christians are saved only by grace through faith in Jesus. We are all sinful and cannot do anything to earn salvation. Jesus died in our place so that believers can have forgiveness and a new life with Him. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ephesians 2:8-9.)

SAY “ What are some ways we can show thankfulness and love toward God? ”

The best way we can show our love and thankfulness to God is to live in a way that pleases and honors Him. If He has saved us, we are His children and we should live in a way that points others to Him. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Corinthians 10:31.)

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: WHO AM I?

Before this activity, create a list of clues for each person in today's story. For example, *I thought I was better than the sinful woman* (Simon), *I was thankful because I had been forgiven of all my sins* (the woman), *I forgave the woman's sins* (Jesus), etc. Read a clue and challenge kids to figure out which person you are describing. Then, if time allows, challenge kids to come up with their own clues about different people from today's story or a story from earlier in the unit and take turns sharing the clues and guessing the character.

SAY “ Today we saw how **JESUS FORGAVE A WOMAN'S SIN** and were reminded that when we trust Jesus, we are forgiven of all our sins and are credited with Jesus' perfect life. ”

☐ OPTION 2: YES OR NO?



Gather kids into one large group in the center of the room. Explain that you will call out yes or no questions. Challenge kids to listen closely and direct them to run to one side of the room if they think the answer to the question is yes and run to the opposite side of the room if they think the answer is no. For example, if you say, *Jesus will forgive me when I repent from my sin*, kids who think the answer is yes will run to the right side of the room and kids who think the answer is no will run to the left.

SAY “ Everyone has sinned and owes a debt they could never repay, but Jesus came to die in our place, taking the punishment our sin deserves. Through Him all our sins can be forgiven. ”

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.