

## Sunday school lesson – Upper Primary

<b>BIG IDEA</b>	God’s forgiveness leads to love and thankfulness
<b>Bible Reading</b>	Luke 7:36-50
<b>Preparation</b>	<p><b>Read Luke 7:36-50</b> We have been looking at God’s forgiveness of sinners. So far, we have seen that Jesus has the power and authority to forgive and that he forgives those who come to him recognising their need of him. Today we will see the evidence of forgiveness, which is a transformed life that responds to God in love and thankfulness. As many of the children in Sunday School have been raised in Christian homes, it is sometimes hard for them to recognise how sinful they are. But unless they do, they will never appreciate the extent of the gift that God offers in forgiveness, and so will only ever be half-hearted in their response of love and thankfulness. Even as grown-ups, we can fall into this same temptation of thinking we are not so bad, and therefore forgiveness becomes a small token that we accept as a matter of course, rather than the immense, radical thing that it really is. Pray that the children would see Jesus through the eyes of the woman and respond similarly.</p> <p><b>Take home message:</b> We will only respond in love and thankfulness to God if we recognise how much we have been forgiven.</p> <p><b>Prepare for “Getting Started”:</b> Have a pencil and a “favourite toy” to act out the parable during the story.</p>
<b>Getting Started</b>	<p><b>Read Deuteronomy 6:5</b> How do you feel about this verse? Do you sometimes find it hard to love God in this way? Do you wish you loved him more? How do you feel when someone tells you “You should love God”? It can be hard to just make yourself love God! Today we are going to look at something that helps with this.</p>
<p><b>Finding Out</b></p> <p>1. Extravagant love (Luke 5:36-39)</p> <p>2. The source of extravagant love</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Recap from last lesson</li> <li>• <i>Q: How did Levi respond to Jesus? How did the Pharisees respond? Why did they respond so differently?</i></li> <li>➤ Last week we read about a feast. Today we will read about another dinner party that Jesus was attended.</li> </ul> <p><b>Read Luke 7:36-39</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ In those times, people didn’t sit around a table on chairs, but instead would be almost lying down on cushions. That’s why this woman could get at Jesus’ feet</li> <li>• <i>Q: How is the woman described? What did the woman do?</i></li> <li>➤ We aren’t told what the woman did to earn the reputation of “sinful” but everyone there knew! She wasn’t a respectable person. She was the one that parents told their children to stay away from.</li> <li>• <i>Q: How did Simon the Pharisee react when he saw what the woman did?</i></li> <li>➤ He presumed that if Jesus knew what the woman had done, he wouldn’t want to go near her – he was wrong about both things!</li> </ul> <p><b>Read Luke 7:40-43</b></p>

<p>(Luke 7:40-43)</p>          <p>3. Extravagant forgiveness (Luke 7:44-50)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Act out the parable. Get one child to loan a pencil to another child, who loses it, but the child forgives them. The same child loans their favourite toy that they have had all their lives and really loves to another child. The child loses the toy. Try to have the act out the suspense – will they be forgiven? Yes!</li> <li>➤ <i>Q: Which child will feel most relieved and grateful? Why?</i></li> <li>➤ If you realise you deserve punishment, but instead get forgiveness, then you respond with thankfulness and love to the person who forgave you. The bigger the thing you are forgiven for – the more you will be thankful!</li> <li>➤ Talk about times when they might have experienced this from their parents (they knew they deserved punishment but were forgiven and shown mercy instead). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: How might that relate to how much we love God?</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Read Luke 7:44-47</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: How does Jesus contrast the woman's actions with Simon's?</i></li> <li>• <i>Q: What did the woman's actions show about the woman? (v.47)</i></li> <li>• <i>Q: By contrast, what does Jesus imply about Simon, given his "little love"? (v.47)</i></li> <li>➤ Anyone who truly appreciates what they deserve from God, and how God has treated them instead (by forgiving them), will show it in their actions.</li> <li>➤ <i>Q: How might Simon have behaved if he recognised that he too needed Jesus to forgive him?</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Read Luke 7:48-50</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Q: How does this remind you of the account about the paralysed man?</i></li> <li>➤ Jesus knew what this woman was like and what she had done. Yet, with just a word, he forgives her for everything. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: How do you think the woman felt as she walked home that night?</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>So What?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: What do you think would be a good thing to focus on if you are struggling to love God the way you should?</i></li> <li>➤ Think about the past week. How have you treated others (for example, in your family)? What have you spent your time thinking about? How much time have you given to God in reading his word and praying to him?</li> <li>➤ God knows all of this. He saw it all. Despite that, he loves you so much that he was willing for his own Son to die so that you could be forgiven. Jesus died for you so that you could be forgiven. And that never changes. No matter what you do, God still loves you and forgives you each time you come to him.</li> <li>➤ If you, like Simon the Pharisee, have still not come to God for forgiveness, can you see what you are missing out on?</li> <li>➤ If you have but you struggle to love God, then make yourself think about the size of the debt that God has forgiven you. Keep going back to it and remember that God didn't demand payment from you but paid for it himself.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Memory Verse</b></p>	<p><i>Luke 5:32</i> I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.</p>

## Sunday school lesson – Lower Primary

<b>BIG IDEA</b>	God's forgiveness leads to love and thankfulness
<b>Bible Reading</b>	Luke 7:36-50
<b>Preparation</b>	<p><b>Read Luke 7:36-50</b> We have been looking at God's forgiveness of sinners. So far, we have seen that Jesus has the power and authority to forgive and that he forgives those who come to him recognising their need of him. Today we will see the evidence of forgiveness, which is a transformed life that responds to God in love and thankfulness. As many of the children in Sunday School have been raised in Christian homes, it is sometimes hard for them to recognise how sinful they are. But unless they do, they will never appreciate the extent of the gift that God offers in forgiveness, and so will only ever be half-hearted in their response of love and thankfulness. Even as grown-ups, we can fall into this same temptation of thinking we are not so bad, and therefore forgiveness becomes a small token that we accept as a matter of course, rather than the immense, radical thing that it really is. Pray that the children would see Jesus through the eyes of the woman and respond similarly.</p> <p><b>Take home message:</b> We will only respond in love and thankfulness to God if we recognise how much we have been forgiven.</p> <p><b>Prepare for "Getting Started":</b> Have pictures of actions that show love (eg. a present, a hug, doing a job for someone). For the story, have a cushion to show how people sat at tables. A "behaviour chart" with pictures of sweets, TV, etc</p>
<b>Getting Started</b>	Talk about how you show people that you love them. Show pictures as examples. We can show that we love people in different ways. The lady in today's story showed that she loved Jesus by doing something for him.
<b>Finding Out</b> 1. Extravagant love (Luke 5:36-39)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Recap from last lesson</li> <li>• <i>Q: Who did Jesus make friends with? Was it because he was a good person? What did Levi do when Jesus forgave him and became friends with him?</i></li> <li>➤ Today we are going to hear about another dinner party that Jesus went to.</li> <li>• <i>Q: Where do you normally eat your dinner?</i></li> <li>➤ In those days, people didn't sit at tables like us, they lay back on cushions (demonstrate if possible). They also normally took their shoes off, because their shoes were dirty from walking on the dusty roads.</li> <li>➤ As Jesus was eating his dinner, a woman came up to him. This woman had done lots of bad things. This is what she did when she saw Jesus</li> </ul> <p><b>Read Luke 7:36-38</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: What do you normally wash with? Q: What did the woman use to wash Jesus' feet? What do you normally dry yourself with? What did the woman use? What else did you do?</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Q: Why do you think the woman did such strange things?</i></li> <li>➤ The woman wanted to show Jesus how much she loved him. She knew that people would think she was strange, but she did it anyway, because she loved Jesus so much. By using her own hair and tears, she showed Jesus how much she loved him (Refer back to "Getting Started" activity).</li> </ul>

<p>2. The source of extravagant love (Luke 7:40-43)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ There was a man at the dinner party called Simon. He saw what the woman did, and he thought to himself, “How can Jesus let that woman touch him? Doesn’t Jesus know that she is a bad woman?”</li> <li>➤ Simon didn’t understand why the woman loved Jesus so much, so Jesus told a story to help him understand</li> </ul> <p><b>Read Luke 5:41-42</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ One man only owed a small amount of money, and the other owed lots and lots of money (about a year and a half of wages). The money lender said to both, “you don’t need to pay me back” – who would be more grateful?</li> <li>➤ Imagine you did something really naughty, like stealing something, or hurting your brother or sister.</li> <li>• <i>Q: What do you think your mummy or daddy would say to you if they found out?</i></li> <li>➤ Maybe they would give you a consequence like “time out” or taking away your pudding or sweets or pocket money. (You could use a chart with pictures of sweets, pudding, TV, pocket money and cross off to demonstrate taking it away)</li> <li>• <i>Q: How do you feel when you get given consequences like that?</i></li> <li>➤ Imagine if your daddy then said, “Even though you deserve to have a consequence, I’m not going to punish you. Instead I’m going to forgive you. You can go and play”. (Demonstrate by wiping away cross, or ripping up chart)</li> <li>➤ <i>Q: How would that make you feel? What would you want to say to your daddy? How would you feel about your daddy?</i></li> </ul>
<p>3. Extravagant forgiveness (Luke 7:44-50)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ That is exactly the way that God treats us!</li> <li>➤ We do things all the time that God isn’t pleased with. We disobey our parents, and fight with our brothers and sisters, and whine and complain.</li> <li>➤ Because we do all these things, we deserve punishment from God</li> <li>➤ But because Jesus has the power to forgive us, if we come to God and say, “I’m sorry, I know I need you to forgive me”, instead of punishing us, he forgives us instead! And we can be friends with God.</li> <li>➤ That’s why the woman loved Jesus so much. She knew she had done lots of bad things, but instead of being punished, Jesus forgave her!</li> </ul> <p><b>Read Luke 5:48-50</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: Does that remind you of anything from the story of the paralysed man?</i></li> <li>• <i>Q: How do you think the woman felt as she walked home that night?</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>So What?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ We deserve to be punished by God, but if we come to him and say sorry, instead of punishing us, he forgives us</li> <li>➤ What do you want to say to God?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Memory Verse</b></p>	<p><i>Luke 5:32</i> I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.</p>

## Sunday school lesson – Pre-School

<b>BIG IDEA</b>	God’s forgiveness leads to love and thankfulness
<b>Bible Reading</b>	Luke 7:36-50
<b>Preparation</b>	<p><b>Read Luke 7:36-50</b> We have been looking at God’s forgiveness of sinners. So far, we have seen that Jesus has the power and authority to forgive and that he forgives those who come to him recognising their need of him. Today we will see the evidence of forgiveness, which is a transformed life that responds to God in love and thankfulness. As many of the children in Sunday School have been raised in Christian homes, it is sometimes hard for them to recognise how sinful they are. But unless they do, they will never appreciate the extent of the gift that God offers in forgiveness, and so will only ever be half-hearted in their response of love and thankfulness. Even as grown-ups, we can fall into this same temptation of thinking we are not so bad, and therefore forgiveness becomes a small token that we accept as a matter of course, rather than the immense, radical thing that it really is. Pray that the children would see Jesus through the eyes of the woman and respond similarly.</p> <p><b>Take home message:</b> We will only respond in love and thankfulness to God if we recognise how much we have been forgiven.</p> <p><b>Prepare for “Getting Started”:</b> Have pictures of actions that show love (eg. a present, a hug, doing a job for someone). For the story, have a cushion to show how people sat at tables. A “behaviour chart” with pictures of sweets, TV, etc</p>
<b>Getting Started</b>	Talk about how you show people that you love them. Show pictures as examples. We can show that we love people in different ways. The lady in today’s story showed that she loved Jesus by doing something for him.
<b>Finding Out</b> 1. Extravagant love (Luke 5:36-39)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Recap from last lesson</li> <li>• <i>Q: Who did Jesus make friends with? Was it because he was a good person? What did Levi do when Jesus forgave him and became friends with him?</i></li> <li>➤ Today we are going to hear about another dinner party that Jesus went to.</li> <li>• <i>Q: Where do you normally eat your dinner?</i></li> <li>➤ In those days, people didn’t sit at tables like us, they lay back on cushions (demonstrate if possible). They also normally took their shoes off, because their shoes were dirty from walking on the dusty roads.</li> <li>➤ As Jesus was eating his dinner, a woman came up to him. This woman had done lots of bad things. This is what she did when she saw Jesus</li> </ul> <p><b>Read Luke 7:38</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: What do you normally wash with? (She used her tears to wash Jesus’ feet!). What do you normally dry yourself with? (She used her hair!)</i></li> <li>➤ What a strange thing to do! She used her tears and her hair and poured very expensive perfume on Jesus’ feet. That was how she showed how much she loved Jesus (Refer back to “Getting Started” activity)</li> <li>➤ She knew that people would think she was strange, but she did it anyway, because she loved Jesus so much.</li> </ul>

<p>2. The source of extravagant love (Luke 7:40-43)</p> <p>3. Extravagant forgiveness (Luke 7:44-50)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ There was a man at the dinner party called Simon. He saw what the woman did, and he thought to himself, “How can Jesus let that woman touch him? Doesn’t Jesus know that she is a bad woman?”</li> <li>➤ Simon didn’t understand why the woman loved Jesus so much</li> <li>➤ Imagine you did something really naughty, like pushing your brother or sister <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: What do you think your mummy or daddy would say to you if they found out?</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Maybe they would give you a consequence like “time out” or taking away your pudding or sweets. (You could use a chart with pictures of sweets, pudding, TV, and cross off to demonstrate taking it away) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: How do you feel when you get given consequences like that?</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Imagine if your daddy then said, “Even though you deserve to have a consequence, I’m not going to punish you. Instead I’m going to forgive you. You can go and play”. (Demonstrate by wiping away cross, or ripping up chart)</li> <li>➤ <i>Q: How would that make you feel? What would you want to say to your daddy? How would you feel about your daddy?</i></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ That is exactly the way that God treats us!</li> <li>➤ We do things all the time that God isn’t pleased with. We disobey our parents, and fight with our brothers and sisters, and whine and complain.</li> <li>➤ Because we do all these things, we deserve punishment from God</li> <li>➤ But because Jesus has the power to forgive us, if we come to God and say, “I’m sorry, I know I need you to forgive me”, instead of punishing us, he forgives us instead! And we can be friends with God.</li> <li>➤ That’s why the woman loved Jesus so much. She knew she had done lots of bad things, but instead of being punished, Jesus forgave her!</li> </ul>
<p><b>So What?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ We deserve to be punished by God, but if we come to him and say sorry, instead of punishing us, he forgives us</li> <li>➤ What do you want to say to God?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Memory Verse</b></p>	<p><i>Luke 5:32</i> I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.</p>