

LESSON 2
JESUS IS ANOINTED

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Forgives Generously

SCRIPTURE: Luke 7

GOD'S BIG STORY: Jesus is invited to a Pharisee's house for dinner. A woman who has lived a sinful life enters and anoints Jesus with perfume. Jesus commends her faith and generously forgives her sins.

WORD OF WONDER: Come to me, all you who are tired and are carrying heavy loads. I will give you rest.

—Matthew 11:28

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Welcome Question: Who is the G.O.A.T. at what they do?
- Curiosity Questions
- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids
- Small Group Prayer Time
- Word of Wonder: Matthew 11:28
- Word of Wonder Activity
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Breath Prayer



Notes! Use the Notes Pages on the back of the Coloring Sheet each week to help kids stay engaged and remember what they are learning. Encourage kids to make notes, draw pictures, and write questions throughout small group and large group. This also provides parents with resources to keep the conversation going throughout the week!



Walking With Jesus Elementary Spotify playlist

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

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WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Forgives Generously

SCRIPTURE: Luke 7

WORD OF WONDER: Matthew 11:28

Have you ever had to forgive someone, but you didn't really want to? Or maybe you were told to forgive someone and said, "I forgive you," but deep down you didn't really mean it?

Forgiving others can be hard sometimes, especially when they have hurt us. Jesus doesn't merely tell us to forgive others; He embodies the very idea of true forgiveness. He is our living example.

Read Luke 7:36–50. In this passage, Jesus publicly forgives a woman whom the Pharisees least expected Him to forgive. In their eyes this woman was one of the worst women to be associated with. Yet Jesus forgave this woman's sins generously. This woman knew that though her sins were many, Jesus offered forgiveness. This led her to want to serve Jesus sacrificially, her sacrifice in turn demonstrating her deep love for Him.

What would it be like to forgive someone in your life generously? It isn't easy, but as we receive God's generous love and forgiveness, we too become able to forgive others.

Take a moment to rest in God's generous love and forgiveness for you. Receive it, thank Him for it, and ask Him to help you extend it to others. What a generous, loving gift from our Savior!

—Ana Dutton

Children's Ministry Volunteer

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Simon the Pharisee was an influential Jew who promoted certain purity laws and traditions. The sinful woman may have been a prostitute, given her apparent reputation.

WHAT?

While Jesus ate dinner at the house of Simon the Pharisee, a sinful woman washed Jesus' feet with her tears, kissed them, and poured perfume on them. The woman's acts demonstrated her gratitude and love for Jesus, the generous forgiver of her many sins.

WHERE?

Though the town in this story is unnamed, Jesus had been traveling around the region of Galilee. Luke 7 starts in Capernaum, on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee. In verse 11, Jesus goes to Nain, which was nine miles southeast of Nazareth.

WHEN?

This story takes place relatively early in Jesus' ministry, as He had just chosen the 12 disciples in the previous chapter. Even so, Jesus had done enough at this point that news about Him was spreading far (see Luke 7:17).

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

This story highlights Jesus' willingness to forgive sinful people. It points ahead to the cross, where Jesus made the way for the complete removal of sin. Jesus' love is transformative, compelling His followers to love greatly because they've been forgiven much.

Small Group

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Forgives Generously

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WORD OF WONDER: Matthew 11:28

Pre-Service Connection (15-20 min)

RESOURCES: Coloring Page, whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils

Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have play stations with various board games, activities, or use games from the extra Games & Activities Guide to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them!

Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group. Allow quieter kids who don't engage with the board games to color. Involve them in the curiosity questions.

As kids arrive..

Invite them to write/draw the answer to the Welcome Question: on the designated board:

“Who is the G.O.A.T. at what they do?” Set out sheets of paper and colored pencils.

While kids are playing in their opening activity groups..

Pose the following “I’m curious” questions. Say “I’m curious...” before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

- **Who do you think is the Greatest of All Time at forgiving people?**
- **What do you think it means to truly forgive someone?**

Small Group Begins

After the Opening Activity, Large Group Leader will begin small group time by reading the Welcome Question aloud and inviting everyone to open their Bibles and begin.

Small Group Discussion: Younger Kids 5–8 min

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid); Bible Story Picture (1/SG)

Help kids use the table of contents in their Bibles to find Luke chapter 7. As kids find the passage, explain to kids that they are going to hear a true story about someone who showed her love for Jesus by anointing Him with perfume. Explain that anointing means pouring oil on someone to show they are loved or are called by God to do a special job.

Assign the roles of the Pharisee, Jesus, and the woman to a few volunteers. Read Luke 7:36–50 aloud, pausing when you get to the words spoken by each of these three people so they can act it out. Then discuss the following:

Notes! Have kids turn to the Notes Pages on the back of the Coloring Sheet and draw a picture of the story as you read.

- **What do you think it would have felt like to be in the same room with Jesus? In God's big story today, who was the rule-follower who hosted Jesus at his house for dinner?** (*Simon the Pharisee*)
- **Who was the rule-breaker?** (*the woman who had lived a sinful life*)
- **Who loved Jesus better by showing Him how important He was to them: the Pharisee or the woman?**
- **When was a time you had to ask for forgiveness?**
- **How does it make you feel to know that Jesus forgives all your sins?**
- **What is one thing you can do this week to show Jesus how thankful you are for His love and forgiveness?**

"In today's story, Jesus did something amazing for the woman. He removed her sin completely, changing her life forever! Our lives are forever changed because of Jesus' forgiveness too. Let's pray right now and tell Him how thankful we are that He forgives us generously."

Prayer Time: Younger Kids

Open your prayer time by thanking God for sending His Son, Jesus, so that our sins could be forgiven and we could have a relationship with God forever. Invite kids to tell God, "Thank You" in their own way for His generous forgiveness. Then invite kids to say a prayer for themselves and for other people they know who need God's love, forgiveness, hope, and healing.

Small Group Discussion: Older Kids 8–10 min

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), Bible Story Picture (1/SG)

Help kids use the table of contents in their Bibles to find Luke chapter 7. As kids find the passage, explain to kids that they are going to hear a true story about someone who showed her love for Jesus by anointing Him with perfume. Explain that anointing means pouring oil on someone to show they are loved or are called by God to do a special job.

Turn to Page 3 of this guide and help kids understand the context of this passage.

Assign the roles of the Pharisee, Jesus, and the woman to a few volunteer readers (leaders or older kids). Read Luke 7:36–50 aloud, pausing when you get to the words spoken by each of these three people. When it's their turn, each volunteer will read his part aloud.

Notes! Have kids turn to the Notes Pages on the back of the Coloring Sheet and write the Scripture and any words that stand out to them.

- **What do you think it would have felt like to be in the same room with Jesus?**
- **In God's big story today, how did Simon the Pharisee describe the woman?** ("She is a sinner!" —Luke 7:39)
- **How did the woman show Jesus how important He was to her?** (by pouring perfume on Jesus' feet, kissing them, wetting them with her tears, and wiping them with her hair)
- **What did Simon the Pharisee do or not do for Jesus?** (he did invite Jesus to his house; he served Jesus dinner; he did not give Jesus water to wash His feet.)
- **In the story that Jesus told the Pharisee, what do you think Jesus meant when He said the lender let the two men who owed him money "go without paying" (Luke 7:42)?**
- **Does Jesus make you pay for all your sins—the wrong things you do? Why or why not?**
- **What are some things you can do to show Jesus how thankful you are for His love and forgiveness?**
- **What is one question you have after hearing this part of God's big story today?**

"In today's part of God's big story, Jesus offered the woman forgiveness for all her sins! Because Jesus forgave her so generously, her life was changed forever. The same is possible for us. Let's pray right now and tell Jesus how grateful we are for His life-changing love and forgiveness."

Prayer Time: Older Kids

Invite kids to share their prayer requests. Pay attention to things that are weighing heavy on kids' hearts, and make note of any burdens that can be specifically mentioned in prayer. Pray for each kid, reminding kids of how willing God is to generously provide His love, forgiveness, hope, and healing in any situation they are currently facing.

WORD OF WONDER

Come to me, all you who are tired and are carrying heavy loads. I will give you rest.

— Matthew 11:28 (NirV)

Word of Wonder

2–3 minutes

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid),

RESOURCES: *Word of Wonder Poster (1/SG)*keep for entire series*

The Word of Wonder for the Walking with Jesus series is Matthew 11:28. Today we heard about a woman who was weighed down by her sin. When she made the decision to come to Jesus and receive forgiveness, her life changed forever! This verse reminds us that we can come to Jesus with any burdens that are weighing us down, including our sin, and He will give us rest. Let's read the Word of Wonder together.

Display the Word of Wonder Poster so kids can see. Read the verse several times together. Invite everyone to stand up and hunch over as if they have something heavy on their back that's weighing them down. Read the verse again, moving slowly from a hunched over position to a freestanding position by the time you say the verse reference.

Talk about these questions:

- What do you think are some burdens or heavy loads that Jesus invites us to give to Him in exchange for His rest?
- How does it make you feel to know that Jesus wants to give you rest from all the things that are weighing you down?

Notes! Have kids turn to the Notes Pages on the back of the Coloring Sheet and try to write as much of the Word of Wonder without looking.

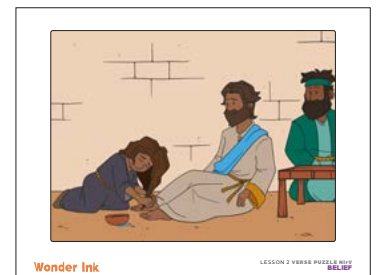
Word of Wonder Activity

5–8 minutes

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), resealable baggies (1 per small group), clear tape (1 roll per small group), stickers or other small prizes (optional)

RESOURCES: *Verse Puzzle Sheet NirV (2-sided, 1 per small group)*

Ahead of time, print the Verse Sheet NirV, one for each small group (two-sided). Cut out the puzzle pieces on each sheet and mix them up so the words aren't in verse order. Place the puzzle piece sets in separate resealable baggies. Place the baggies across the room from where the small groups are sitting; groups should be equidistant from their respective baggies.



Wonder Ink

LESSON 2 VERSE PUZZLE SHEET

Give a roll of tape to each small group. When their verse is completed, a surprise picture will be revealed on the flip side. Designate which baggie belongs to which group. Explain that kids will take turns racing to their group's baggie, grabbing one puzzle piece from it, and returning to their group. Kids in their group will continue taking turns doing this until they have gathered all their pieces. Then the group will work together to put the words of the verse in order. Once the verse is in order, groups will use the tape to secure the pieces together and then flip their verse over and shout out what the surprise picture is on the back. (This activity can be done as a race between small groups or as a fun, noncompetitive activity!)

Make It Inclusive! For kids with physical limitations that affect gross motor skills like running, moving fast may not be an option. Consider calling out alternative ways to travel across the room at random, asking all kids no matter where they are to start moving in that way until you call out a different option, such as sidestepping, moving in slow motion, tagging another teammate to race in their place, etc.

PAUSE for Large Group time, then continue...

Responding in Worship: Breath Prayer

SUPPLIES: cushion or large throw pillow, small whiteboards (1 per kid), dry-erase markers (1 per kid), paper towels or tissues, butcher paper, permanent marker (prep only), masking or painter's tape (prep only)

RESOURCES: [Breath Prayer Sheets \(1/SG\)](#), [Walking with Jesus Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

(Breathe in)
Jesus, Son of God ...

(Breathe out)
please forgive my
sins generously.

Ahead of time, set up three prayer stations in separate parts of the room.

Place a cushion or large throw pillow on the floor at Station 1. Lay out small whiteboards, dry-erase markers, and paper towels or tissues at Station 2. Draw a picture of a large cross on butcher paper and tape it on the wall at Station 3.

"Today we heard about a sinful woman whose life was changed by Jesus. The Pharisee—a man focused on following all the rules—didn't think the woman, a rule-breaker, was worthy of Jesus' attention. Despite her sin, the woman used perfume that was incredibly valuable to her to express her deep love and appreciation for Jesus. She showed everyone in the room that she knew Jesus' forgiveness was greater than her sin. Because of her faith, Jesus freely offered the woman the gift of forgiveness and erased her sin completely.

Like the woman in the story, our lives are changed by Jesus too. No matter what you've done, you can come to Jesus with your sin and know that He forgives you generously. Today we're going to respond to God in worship by learning and practicing a breath prayer together. A breath prayer is a prayer we repeat in a single breath with one part as we breathe

in and one part as we breathe out. Display the Breath Prayer and demonstrate the following breath prayer:

(Breathe in) **Jesus, Son of God ...**

(Breathe out) **please forgive my sins generously.**

Repeat the prayer several times together. Start playing the song “I’m So Glad I Met Jesus” from the [Walking with Jesus Elementary Spotify playlist](#) and introduce the stations where kids can say their breath prayer to Jesus.

At Station 1, invite kids to envision Jesus sitting on the cushion and reclining at the Pharisee’s dinner table. While reciting their breath prayer, kids can walk toward the cushion and stand behind it like the sinful woman did. Remind kids that Jesus meets them right where they are when they humbly come to Him asking for forgiveness.

At Station 2, invite kids to write on a whiteboard different sins they are struggling with. While reciting their breath prayer, kids can pick up a paper towel or tissue and erase their sins completely. Remind kids that Jesus forgives all sins, even the ones we think are unforgivable.

At Station 3, invite kids to go to the cross and choose one of three prayer positions as they recite their breath prayer: kneeling, hands out in front with palms facing up, or arms raised with palms facing the sky. Remind kids that asking for forgiveness is an act of worship, and Jesus wants to remove the heavy load of sin weighing us down and replace it with His rest.

Make It Inclusive! Some kids may prefer to recite their breath prayer staying in one place, remaining separate from the rest of the group, or even doing something more hands-on like coloring. Simply encourage kids to get to a place where they can feel close to God in prayer.

When kids have completed all three stations, invite them to sit down at Station 3. Encourage kids to confidently say the Wonder Truth together, then point to the cross: **JESUS FORGIVES GENEROUSLY.**

Jesus does indeed forgive us generously. He went to great lengths for us to be fully forgiven. Jesus, God’s perfect Son who never sinned, died on a cross, so that we could be free from our sin once and for all. Then three days later, Jesus rose from the dead, showing that He is greater than sin and death. Jesus is alive today and forever, and because of who He is and what He has done for us, we are now free to have a relationship with God without our sin being in the way! We are free to walk with Jesus!"

Leader Tip: If you have kids in your group who don’t yet know Jesus, take time to talk with them about who Jesus is and what He has done for them. Invite them to ask any questions they may have about God’s story and His plan of salvation. If possible, connect with their parents or guardians to tell them about your conversation.