



### A 52-Week Journey Through the Bible

Soaring through the pages of the Bible and embarking on an inspiring weekly journey from <u>Genesis to Revelation!</u> Dive into transformative insights that will uplift your spirit and deepen your understanding. Experience the power of scripture like never before!

We understand that spiritual growth can be a deeply personal journey, and we invite you to join us as we explore a different book of the Bible each week. It's a wonderful opportunity to reflect and find inspiration together. We encourage you to invite a friend to join us, whether in person or online, so we can support each other on this meaningful path.

# Background Matters

It was considered virtuous to invite a teacher over for dinner, especially if the teacher were from out of town or had just taught at the synagogue. That they are "reclining" rather than sitting indicates that they are using couches rather than chairs and that this is a banquet, perhaps in honor of the famous guest teacher.<sup>1</sup>

This passage illustrates the principle Jesus laid down in verse 35. A Pharisee named Simon is contrasted with a sinful woman, who received forgiveness (v. 47) and salvation (v. 50).

7:36–38. Simon (v. 40), a Pharisee, invited **Jesus to ... dinner**, perhaps to trick Him in some way. It was the custom of the day when one had a dinner party to provide for the guests' feet to be cleaned before the meal. Because most roads were unpaved and the normal foot attire was sandals, it was common for people's feet to be dusty or muddy. As pointed out later in the episode, Simon did not provide for Jesus' feet to be cleaned at the beginning of the dinner party (v. 44). For special dinner parties recliners or couches were provided for the guests to use while eating.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Craig S. Keener, <u>The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament</u> (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), Lk 7:36.



A woman arrived at the dinner after she learned that Jesus was eating there. She had lived a sinful life, and was probably a prostitute in the community. Her life was known enough for the Pharisee to characterize her as a sinner (v. 39). She was not an invited guest at the dinner gathering, but came in anyway with a jar of perfume. Her presence was not unusual for when a Rabbi was invited to someone's house others could stop by and listen to the conversation. As the woman stood behind Jesus, her tears began to fall on His feet. It was a normal sign of respect to pour oil or perfume on someone's head.<sup>1</sup>

**In This Week's Drone Series,** we explore the story of a woman rejected and exploited by her community. Luke highlights her search for acceptance and purpose amid widespread judgment, revealing that it is the community's lack of compassion and forgiveness that is truly under scrutiny.

Jesus empathizes with her pain, feeling the tears on His feet, which reflect her suffering from rejection due to her poor choices in life and sin's debilitating impacts. However, He offers the greatest remedy for her brokenness: forgiveness and mercy. Despite the judgment from those around her, Jesus is the only one capable of taking the broken and discarded people of the world and restoring hope and resilience.

#### **Finding Hope in The Redeemer**

A Woman's Journey to Healing
Luke Chapter 7:36-50

Study Guide 29 This study guide presents daily assignments that are specifically crafted to enhance your growth in the Word. Embrace each moment to meditate and reflect, and watch as your spiritual maturity flourishes through your dedicated efforts.

OPEN IT, MONDAYS. Open your heart and mind to the truth of the Word.

1.	In what ways have you been thanked recently?

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> John A. Martin, "Luke," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 223–224.



# **EXPLORE IT**, Tuesdays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

2.	Who invited Jesus to dinner? (7:36)
3.	What did one woman do when she heard where Jesus was to dine? (7:37–38)
4.	*What did the Pharisee say about what the woman did? (7:39)
5.	How did Jesus respond to Simon the Pharisee's harsh thoughts? (7:40–43)
6.	What did Jesus know about the woman's motivation? (7:41–42)
7.	*What did Jesus think of Simon's hospitality? (7:44–46)
8.	What contrasting treatment did Jesus mention? (7:44–46)
FX	PLORE IT, Wednesdays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.
	What was the result of the woman's kindness? (7:47–48)
10	. *How did the other guests react to Jesus' forgiveness of the woman? (7:49)



11.	What did Jesus say to the disapproving guests? (7:50)
12.	Why, according to Jesus, was the woman saved? (7:50)
13.	What was Jesus' double blessing on the woman? (7:50)
GET I	THURSDAYS, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.
14.	With what character in the story do you most identify?
15.	Which of the woman's actions do you find most compelling?
	*When have you ever felt like Simon or the other guests when confronted with a person of questionable morals?
17.	What did Jesus receive from people who had sinned?
18.	What were the limits of Jesus' compassion in this story?
19.	*What are the limits of Jesus' compassion toward us?



<u>DR</u>	IVE IT HOME, FRIDAYs, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.
21.	If you were the woman described in this story, how would the words and touch of Jesus make you feel?
22.	What can you do to foster your own thankfulness to God this week?
23.	*What people do you want to view more with Jesus' eyes?

20. Why was it necessary for the guests to ask about Jesus' identity?

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