

He said to the Pharisee, "I have something to say to you." "Go ahead, Teacher," Simon replied. 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. 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?" Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the larger debt." "That's right," Jesus said." **Luke 7:39-43 NLT**

"Jesus answered them, 'Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners and need to repent.'"

Luke 5:31-32 NLT

● Respond to forgiveness with love and gratitude

"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. You didn't greet Me with a kiss, but from the time I first came in, she has not stopped kissing My feet. You neglected the courtesy of olive oil to anoint My head, but she has anointed My feet with rare perfume. 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.'" **Luke 7:44-47 NLT**

● Rejoice confidently that your sins are forgiven

"Then Jesus said to the woman, 'Your sins are forgiven.' The men at the table said among themselves, 'Who is this man, that He goes around forgiving sins?' And Jesus said to the woman, 'Your faith has saved you; go in peace.'" **Luke 7:48-50 NLT**

"For God's will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time. For by that one offering He forever made perfect those who are being made holy." **Hebrews 10:10,14 NLT**



Next Week...

Open To All Who Feel Unprepared

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Mark Hadley
JULY 1, 2018

Open To All Who
Feel Unforgivable

Coming to Jesus when we feel unforgivable...

"For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."

Luke 19:10 NLT

● Approach Jesus in faith, trusting in His grace

"One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to have dinner with him, so Jesus went to his home and sat down to eat. When a certain immoral woman from that city heard He was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume. 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." **Luke 7:36-38 NLT**

"Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into Heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet He did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." **Hebrews 4:14-16 NIV**

● Be self-aware, rather than self-righteous

"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!' Then Jesus answered his thoughts. 'Simon,'



This Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday's message. Join one of our message-based Community Groups to do this study together. Visit the Groups table after service to find a group!

LESSON AIM: The aim of this lesson is to realize that Jesus embraces all who feel unforgivable.

BELONG in God's family:

CHECK IN: (optional) Let's briefly share with each other how we've been doing this week.

OPENING PRAYER

ICEBREAKER: We've all believed something that we later understood was completely mistaken. Share an example.

BECOME like Jesus:

1. On Sunday, we talked about people who feel unforgivable. What did you learn about how Jesus sees you? How does that change your thinking?
2. Read Luke 7:36-50. What character in the story do you most identify with? Now, let's focus on the woman. What can we say about her motivation to seek out Jesus and ask forgiveness? What does Jesus' response to her tell us about God?
3. Verse 50 in the passage tells us that the story is ultimately about faith. Jesus often told the people He healed that "your faith has saved you" — that their confidence in Him had been the means of their restoration. This woman had faith that in the midst of a fallen, messy, sinful and confusing world, God wanted to rescue her. Is faith something we develop, something God gives us, or some sort of partnership?
4. Our culture often values "spirituality," but not Christianity. What is the difference? Faith itself isn't of value unless it is placed in God. Read

Proverbs 3:5. Why is it important to trust what the Bible tells us more than our feelings?

5. Read Acts 2:36-41. Peter was preaching to people who had rejected the Messiah. They had a lot of guilt to overcome, and yet 3,000 did that day. In 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Paul tells us that many early Christians had overcome a lot. They had every reason to feel unforgivable, but what did Paul tell them?

BLESS others:

People don't wear signs that say "I feel unforgivable." How can we recognize them? What are some clues? How can Christians encourage disheartened people to accept forgiveness through faith?

BUILD God's kingdom:

Faith is an important ingredient in many of Jesus' parables of the kingdom. Matthew 17:14-20 tells the parable of the mustard seed. Like the seed, our faith can grow into something much bigger than it was at the beginning. Now, read Matthew 13:44-46. The treasure and the pearl both represent faith. What is Jesus teaching us in these parables?

BELIEVE God and act in faith:

This spring, we studied the Five Solas: By God's grace alone, on the basis of Christ alone, received through faith alone, to the glory of God alone, with Scripture alone as the only authority on truth. It is God's desire that we accept forgiveness through faith. Close tonight by reading Psalm 103 together. Finally, read verses 10-12 again to be reminded that God loves us and chooses to forgive us.

PRAYER: What challenge are you facing this week? How can our group pray and support you?

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