

## STORY 2: FORGIVENESS

**O**ne day, Jesus was invited to have dinner with Simon, who was a teacher of the religious law. So Jesus went to Simon's home and sat down to eat with him.

In the town, there was a woman who was known as the village harlot, and when she learned that Jesus was at Simon's house, she got an expensive bottle of perfume and found the house. She came in and stood behind Jesus weeping, and wetting his feet with her tears. Then, she wiped his feet with her hair, kissed them, and poured her perfume on them.

When Simon saw this, he muttered to himself, "If this Jesus really was the prophet I thought he was, he would have known what kind of woman this is who is falling all over him."

Jesus said to him, "Simon, I've got something to tell you."

Simon replied, "Teacher, what is it?"

Jesus told him, "Two men were in debt to a banker. One owed five hundred silver coins and the other owed fifty. Neither of the men had the money to pay it back, so the banker decided to cancel both debts. Which of the two men will love the banker more?"

Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the biggest debt canceled."

"That's right," Jesus said. Then, turning to the woman but speaking to Simon, Jesus said, "Do you see this woman? When I came into your house, you didn't give me any water to wash my feet. But she washed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You didn't greet me with a kiss, but from the time I came in, she hasn't stopped kissing my feet. You gave me nothing to freshen up, but she has poured perfume on my feet. So, I tell you that all her many sins have been forgiven, and that's why she has shown great love. But he who has been forgiven little, loves little."

Then Jesus said to the woman, "Your sins are forgiven."

At this, the other guests started saying to one another, "Who does he think he is, forgiving sins?"

But Jesus told the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

## STORY 2: FORGIVENESS

- **review:** re-tell the story
  
- **dialogue:** discuss the story
  - What do you like or not like about this story?
  
  - What are some differences in how the religious leader viewed the sinful woman versus how Jesus viewed her?
  
  - Why do you think Jesus told the story about the two men with debt? What can we learn from that?
  
  - What do you suppose was the impact of this experience on the woman?
  
  - What can we learn about God from this story?
  
- **application:** live the story
  - Why don't we always experience the forgiveness that God offers us?
  
  - If we were completely assured of God's forgiveness of all of our past, present and future disobedience, how would we live? What would our lives look like?
  
  - What is one action you can take to apply this story to your life?
  
- **notes:**