

**Early Summer - Cycle C - Revised Common Lectionary**  
**Pentecost through Proper 10**  
**May 27, 2007 - July 15, 2007**

We remain Easter people, now with the wind of the Holy Spirit in our sails. Our task for the months ahead, in this season of Ordinary Time, which extends to the end of November, is to look at what Jesus so tenaciously taught his disciples and see what is in these teachings for us, as we carry out the work we have been given to do. Jesus promised his disciples a helper, an Advocate, who would stand with them making the work possible. This same helper, the Holy Spirit, hovers over us, still eager to quench the fire of fear and replace it with the powerful energy of love.

**Proper 6**  
**June 17, 2007**  
**Luke 7:36 – 8:3**

**A notation for this week's Gospel**

Luke's Gospel accompanies us on the rest of our journey this year. Luke fleshes out the parables, adding rich details not found in the other gospel accounts. Today, it is the story of the woman who is self-convicted of sin. Her relief at encountering forgiveness flows out of her in an extravagant display of gratitude. Are we so able to confront our transgressions, confess them, and then believe they are truly forgiven, that we, too, can dance our gratitude?

### **Lesson Plans for Older Children**

**Theme:** The gratitude that flows from forgiveness.

**Before Class.** The passage for today is fairly long and has several speaking parts. It would be helpful if you would download copies from the Internet ([www.devotions.net/bible/00bible.htm](http://www.devotions.net/bible/00bible.htm) is one such site; there are others.) Then to make it even easier to read, highlight the different parts.

**Beginning.** Tell the children that if this class had been meeting at the time of today's story, you would have done something for them that you have not done. If you think they may know, offer clues, if not, simply tell them that all of us would be wearing sandals - no socks, no shoes - and no roads would be paved so all paths would be hot and dusty. So you would have had your maid (and you would have had a maid!) wash the feet of each child as they came into the class, drying them gently and putting on soothing lotion and would have offered oil to smooth the dusty hair on their heads!

Tell them to keep that in mind as they hear today's scripture. Then ask each child to think about (just think about, not have to share) a time when they blew it — did something really bad, not just a mistake, they really blew it — BUT they were not punished as they expected to be. Tell them to get in touch with the relief they felt. Tell them to be thinking about that, too, as they read the scripture for today.

**Opening Prayer.** Thank you, God, that you forgive us when we show we are sorry. Thank you for that forgiveness. Amen.

**The Story. Luke 7: 36 - 50.** Some terms the children may not know: Pharisee — a religious leader of a group that worked very hard to make sure they were obeying all their many laws right down to the letter of the law — and so they had great difficulty with Jesus' ministry that did not appear to them to be toeing the line. Alabaster jar of ointment — alabaster was about as expensive a material as you could get for a jar. Usually white, shiny-looking a bit like marble. The ointment was also expensive.

## Some Questions

Getting the facts, as best we can.

Why was the Pharisee upset that this woman had come to his party? (She clearly had not been invited, and what she was doing was embarrassing him.)

What did the woman do? (First she cried, then she washed Jesus' feet in her tears, dried his feet with her hair, and then smoothed ointment on his feet.)

What is the question Jesus asks the Pharisee? (Verse 41-43)

Do you think the Pharisee was beginning to "get it?" (Verse 43a)

What had the Pharisee — who was so intent on getting everything right — forgotten to do for Jesus when he came into his house? (Verse 44-45)

What does Jesus say to the woman? (Verse 48)

How do the people sitting at the table respond to that? (Verse 49)

**Option.** If you have both girls and boys in your group consider dividing the class according to gender for this activity. Tell them that women had very little status in the time of Jesus so it is no surprise that she is given no lines in this story. Let the girls come up with the woman's story: not so much what she had done to be considered a sinner, but the gratitude she felt at believing she was being forgiven. Perhaps she had heard Jesus speak before. Maybe he had already forgiven her before this day. Give her a voice for her gratitude.

Meanwhile, the boys can try to identify with the Pharisee who is just trying to do his job. And letting "sinners" come to his party was against his ways. Could it be the man had something he was not terribly proud of that he was afraid someone might find out about?

**Activity.** Ask the girls to speak for the woman and the boys to speak for the Pharisee.

**Getting Closure.** Ask the children to sit for a minute and remember the event they thought about at the beginning of this session -- especially the gratitude they felt at being forgiven. Ask if anyone wants to describe how the gratitude felt. And if no one offers anything, that is OK, too.

**Closing Prayer.** Thank you, God, for the gift of gratitude that rushes over us when we know we have been forgiven. Thank you that you forgive us. Amen.