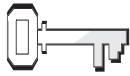


# Loving the Unlovable



## References

Luke 7:36–50; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 557–568



## Memory Verse

“Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers” (1 Peter 2:17, NIV).

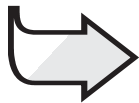


## Objectives

The children will:  
**Know** that in God’s family we treat one another with respect.

**Feel** willing to respect even the least lovable.

**Respond** by intentionally including those who are left out.



## The Message

God wants me to include those who get left out.

## Monthly Theme

We treat each other as God treats us.

## The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Simon the Pharisee is having a feast at his house. Jesus and His disciples are invited. During dinner, Mary, an uninvited and unwelcome woman who had lived a sinful life, comes in and weeps at Jesus’ feet. She wets His feet with her tears, wipes them with her hair, and then pours perfume on them from an alabaster box. Simon and others are unhappy about this. Jesus defends Mary by pointing out to Simon that Mary was forgiven a lot and therefore loves Him a lot.

## *This is a lesson about community.*

Jesus treated Mary with respect and included her in His circle of friends, even though she was rejected and scorned by many others. His followers will do the same to all including the least lovable.

## Teacher Enrichment

When a guest (especially a rabbi) entered a house to attend a feast three things were done. The host placed his hand on the guest’s shoulder and gave him the kiss of peace, cool water was poured over the guest’s feet to cleanse and comfort them, and either a pinch of sweet-smelling incense was burned or a drop of attar of roses was placed on the guest’s head. In this instance none of these three customs was performed. (See William Barclay, *The Gospel of Luke* [Westminster Press, 1975], p. 94.)

Guests at a feast removed their sandals before the meal and reclined on their left side on the couches on three sides of the table, with their left elbow resting on the table and their feet at the lower end of the couch, away from the table. This made it comparatively simple for Mary to “anoint” the feet of Jesus without being noticed until the aromatic scent of the perfumed ointment filled the room. (See *The SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, p. 762.)

## Room Decorations

See Lesson 1.

## Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
<b>1</b> Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>On the Outside</i> B. <i>The Nose Knows</i>	none baby food jars, cotton balls, scented materials such as vanilla extract, ground cinnamon, cloves, lemon juice, orange juice, chocolate
<b>Any Time</b> Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> heart-shaped container none
<b>2</b> Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story  Memory Verse Bible Study	Bible-times costumes, cushions, pita bread in a basket, bowl of fruit, empty bowls, baskets of pretend food, bowl for washing, jug of water, bottle of perfume, (optional) wig of long hair, Bible Bible, <i>Let's Sing Sabbath Songs</i> Bibles
<b>3</b> Applying the Lesson	up to 15	A. <i>Helping Hand</i> B. <i>Who Is the Leader?</i>	light object, heavy object, Bible none
<b>4</b> Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Special Containers for Special People</i>	small containers; art materials; small gift such as a flower, piece of candy, or some other treat; note paper; pens or pencils; Bibles

**\*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.**

# TEACHING THE LESSON

## Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Give directions for the readiness activity of your choice.

1

## Readiness Activities

Select the activity that is most appropriate for your situation.

### A. On the Outside

Form groups of five or more children. Ask all but one child in each group to form a tight circle and close up all the space so no one can get inside. Then have the child on the outside try to get inside the circle. Tell those in the circle not to let him or her inside. After two minutes call time and select another child to be outside the circle. Repeat the activity until everyone has had a turn inside and outside the circle.

### Debriefing

Say: **How did you feel when you were kept out of the circle?** (unhappy, confused, sad, left out) **How did you feel about keeping others out of your circle?** (wanted to keep them out, wanted to let them in, didn't care) **Have you ever felt shut out of a group or an activity? What did you do about it? What can you do when you see that someone is being left out?** (Invite them in. Make them a part of the group. Ask them to work with you. Share with them.) **Today's message is:**



**GOD WANTS ME TO INCLUDE THOSE WHO GET LEFT OUT.**

**Say that with me.**

### B. The Nose Knows

Line baby food or other small jars with cotton balls so students won't be able to see inside. Into each, drop a scented material. (See list in the box.) Place another cotton ball on top of the scent so students won't be able to see inside (or have students close their eyes and wave the bottle under their noses). See how many scents they can recognize.

### Debriefing

Ask: **Why are smells important?** (They help us taste our food; they give us clues to what's going on around us; they just smell good.) **We're talking about smells today because our Bible story is about a woman who did something important with some perfume. Because of this some people thought Jesus shouldn't have anything to do with her. But that's not Jesus' way. Today's message is:**



**GOD WANTS ME TO INCLUDE THOSE WHO GET LEFT OUT.**

**Say that with me.**

#### You Need:

- baby food or other small jars
- cotton balls
- scented materials such as flower petals, perfume, vanilla extract, ground cinnamon, cloves, lemon juice, orange juice, chocolate

# Prayer and Praise

Any  
Time



## Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Review the memory verse and allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors and introduce each by name. Acknowledge birthdays or special events.



## Suggested Songs

"We Are His Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 129)

"The Family of God" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 139)

"We Are the Church" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 141)

"I'm So Happy" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 65)



## Mission

Use a story from *Children's Mission*.



## Offering

Collect the offering in a heart-shaped container.

### You Need:

- heart-shaped container



## Prayer

Ask each child to think of someone to whom they should show more respect. Ask the children to think of that person as you ask God to help each child to treat people with love and respect.

## Bible Lesson

### You Need:

- Bible-times costumes
- cushions
- pita bread in a basket
- bowl of fruit
- empty bowls
- baskets of pretend food
- bowl for washing
- jug of water
- large bottle of perfume or cologne
- wig of long hair (optional)
- Bible

### Experiencing the Story

*Dress volunteers in Bible-times costumes and act out the story together. Do not expect students to speak their part. They get involved as you prompt them while telling the story. For a really unforgettable experience, clear out the chairs and have lots of cushions and pillows on the floor so everyone can be part of the feast.*

**Characters:** A rabbi, mother, father, child, servant, Jesus, Martha, Mary, Simon, disciples, guests

### Read or tell the story.

In a typical Jewish home in Jesus' day, when a knock is heard [Pause for knock.] the child runs to answer the door. The rabbi, an honored teacher, has come to visit. So the child invites the rabbi to step inside and then politely says, "Father, mother, it is the rabbi."

Immediately the child's father steps forward. "Welcome," he says, and placing his right hand on the rabbi's shoulder he gives the kiss of peace. [Instruct the "father" to kiss the "rabbi" on the forehead.]

While the father offers the rabbi a cushion to sit on, the mother calls a servant to bring a towel, a bowl, and a jug of water. The servant pours the water over the rabbi's feet and then dries them with a towel. [Instruct the "servant" to pretend to wash the "rabbi's" feet.] The father then touches a little scented oil on the rabbi's forehead and feet. [Pause while the "father" puts a bit of scented perfume on the "rabbi's" forehead and feet.] These three rituals were always performed to show respect to a rabbi. [Exit: father, mother, child, servant, and rabbi.]

[Enter: Simon, Martha]

Simon is getting ready for a party. Martha helps him. Simon counts to see if they have enough cushions. Martha checks that the food is ready. Simon plans where everyone will sit.

Then the guests begin to arrive. Simon greets each one. [The "disciples" and "guests" enter one by one and sit on the cushions.] After they remove their sandals they sit down, leaning on the cushions with their feet stretched out in front of them. [Pause until all the "guests," including "Jesus," are seated.]

Simon welcomes all of his guests and asks a blessing on the food. [Wait while "Simon" prays.] Martha gets busy passing the bowls of fruit and the bread.

During the dinner, Mary slips in and kneels at Jesus' feet. They do not notice Mary. Mary's tears splash onto Jesus' feet and bathe them. She pours perfumed oil on Jesus' feet. [Have "Mary" open a perfume bottle and pretend to pour the contents on "Jesus'" feet.]

As the perfume fills the air, the other guests look about. *What is Mary doing?* they wonder. Simon is not pleased. Jesus healed him of leprosy. And to show his thanks, Simon has arranged this feast for Jesus and invited lots of important people. They all know that Mary has been a bad woman. She is not one of the important people. Simon wishes she had not come.

But Mary is not thinking about anything except Jesus and how much she loves Him. Her tears of love and thanks flow into the ointment, and she kneels down and wipes Jesus' feet with her long, flowing hair. [Have "Mary" pretend to wipe "Jesus'" feet with her hair.]

As the perfume fills the whole room, people talk. [Have the "guests" pretend to whisper to one another.] "That perfume is expensive!" Judas whispers. "It cost a

whole year's wages! It could have been sold and the money given to the poor."

Simon wonders why Jesus allows such an unimportant person to touch Him. Jesus knows what Simon is thinking. He knows what Mary is feeling.

"Leave her alone," Jesus says. "She has done a beautiful thing. When I came into your house you didn't wash My feet, you didn't pour oil on My head, you didn't give Me a kiss. This woman has been forgiven a lot, and she loves Me a lot."

Then Jesus promises that people everywhere will hear Mary's story. This story will help them to understand that God loves and accepts everybody, including those who are left out.

### **Debriefing**

Allow response time as you ask:

**What do you suppose Mary was thinking as she cried and put expensive perfume on Jesus' feet? What were the proud people in the story thinking? What was Jesus thinking?**

**What would you do if you were in a group of people and all of a sudden you smelled perfume?** Read aloud John 12:3. **Do you think it was easy for Mary to do that without being noticed?** (No, the smell filled the whole house.) **How do you think she felt when everyone began looking at her? If you see someone who is embarrassed, what would you do? What does our message say?**



**GOD WANTS ME TO INCLUDE THOSE WHO GET LEFT OUT.**

### **Memory Verse**

Read aloud 1 Peter 2:17 and discuss its meaning.

Sing the memory verse to the tune of "Sing Ev'ryone Sing" (*Let's Sing Sabbath Songs*, page 17) or use a familiar song of your choice.

Show proper respect.  
Show proper respect.  
Show proper respect in all that you do and say.  
Show proper respect.

Love the brotherhood.  
Love the brotherhood.  
Love the brotherhood of all the believers.  
Love the brotherhood.

### **Bible Study**

Say: **The story of Simon's feast is found in four books of the Bible—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—called "the Gospels." We are going to read the same story in these four places.**

Have adults assist as needed. Have children read aloud the following texts, one text each.

Matthew 26:6–13

Mark 14:3–9

Luke 7:36–39

John 12:1–8

### **Debriefing**

Ask: **What did we learn about Simon from these texts?** (He had been a leper. Jesus had healed him.) **Who criticized Mary?** (Judas and some of the Pharisees.) **What did Simon think about Mary's actions?** (He thought Jesus could not be a prophet if He did not know that Mary was a "terrible sinner.") **What did Jesus think about Mary's actions?** (She was showing how thankful she was because He had forgiven her sins.)

**Are there times when we think unkind thoughts about people?** (Yes.) **After reading this story, what should we do about that?** (We should try to include everyone, especially people who are treated wrong or left out of things.) **What does our message say?**



**GOD WANTS ME TO INCLUDE THOSE WHO GET LEFT OUT.**

### **You Need:**

- Bibles
- *Let's Sing Sabbath Songs*

### **You Need:**

- Bibles



# 3

## Applying the Lesson

### You Need:

- light object, such as a letter
- heavy backpack or other heavy container
- Bible

### A. Helping Hand

In advance, select two children to participate in this activity and tell them what to do and say. Give one child something very light to carry, such as a letter, and ask him or her to walk across the front of the room. Meet the child part way and offer to help carry the package. The child passes the light object to you and halfheartedly says, "Thank you."

Give another child a heavy backpack or other large package and insist that he or she carry it across the front of the room. Let the child struggle for a while as he or she tries to carry it. Meet the child and offer to carry it. The child enthusiastically says, "THANK YOU!"

### Debriefing

Say: **Which of the two children was more grateful for my help? Jesus told Simon a story about this idea.** Read it together in Luke 7:40–48, 50, then say: **Jesus accepted and loved everyone, even people like Mary who did wrong things. Mary was helped a lot, so she loved Jesus a lot.**

**Do you know someone like Mary? Someone who has problems and perhaps is not accepted by your friends? Can you choose to love and accept that person this coming week?** (Pause and give the children a few moments to think of someone. They should not share it.) **Let's say our message together:**



**GOD WANTS ME TO INCLUDE THOSE WHO GET LEFT OUT.**

### B. Who Is the Leader?

Ask for a volunteer to go outside the room. Have the rest of the children stand in a circle. Choose one person to be the leader who will do actions that all the other children will follow. Then have the volunteer return to the class and stand in the center of the circle. The leader is to change actions when the volunteer is not looking. Change the leader several times and give several children the opportunity to be the volunteer who tries to discover who is the leader.

### Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

**What was it like when you were trying to figure out who was leading the group? What did you think when you couldn't figure out who was the leader?**

**Sometimes many of our friends are doing something, and we are not included. How does it feel to be left out? Have you ever been in a group that left others out? When that happens, what can you do?**

**How can you help include others in your activities?** (Invite them to join you; pick them to be on your team; share something with them; ask them to help you; etc.) **Let's remember today's message:**



**GOD WANTS ME TO INCLUDE THOSE WHO GET LEFT OUT.**

**Say that with me.**

## 4

## Sharing the Lesson

### Special Containers for Special People

Have each child select and decorate a container. Tell them to put into the container a small gift such as a flower, piece of candy, or some other treat—along with a note that says “Jesus Loves You.” Invite them to go to a person who seems to have few friends and give him or her the container, saying, “I made this for you.”

### Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **To whom will you give your container?** Allow time for discussion. Encourage the children to share the name. If they do not know, help them to think of someone in your church family.

Say: **As you share your container with that special someone, think about what Jesus said in Matthew 25:40.** Allow time to find and read the text aloud. **“I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.” When we include others, we make them happy. And we make Jesus happy too. Let’s say today’s message together again.**



**GOD WANTS ME TO INCLUDE THOSE WHO GET LEFT OUT.**

### Closing

Gather the children in a circle so no one is left out. Offer a quiet prayer thanking God for each child and asking Him to help each one remember to include those around them who might be left out of things.

### You Need:

- small containers
- art materials
- small gifts (must fit in containers)
- note cards or papers
- pens or pencils
- Bibles



## Loving the Unlovable

### References

Luke 7:36–50;  
*The Desire of Ages*,  
 pp. 557–568

### Memory Verse

“Show proper respect  
 to everyone: Love the  
 brotherhood of  
 believers”  
 (1 Peter 2:17, NIV).

### The Message

God wants me to  
 include those who  
 get left out.

*When Rafael and his family moved to a new neighborhood, he felt lost. He felt lonely at his new school.*

*Then one day a student came up to him in the hall and said, “Hi! I’m Karin. I’ve seen you but I don’t know you yet. Come sit with me and my friends during lunch!”*

*Someone else included people who were left out—Jesus. He was friends with everyone.*

The dinner party at Simon’s house was the place to be. Simon was one of the leading Jewish rulers, and Jesus had healed his leprosy. To show his thanks, Simon planned a huge feast for Jesus. Everybody who was anybody came.

Mary was there, too. She was the kind of person people talked about, not to. Everyone knew she was a sinner. Everyone knew Jesus had ordered seven unclean spirits out of her. She probably wasn’t even invited to the party. But since she followed Jesus everywhere, no one stopped her. They just wanted her to stay quietly in the back-ground.

Mary knew about her reputation. She knew she was not accepted in “polite” company. But she wanted to show Jesus how thankful she was. She had with her a small alabaster jar of perfumed ointment. When

no one was looking, she poured the ointment over Jesus’ head and feet. Her tears of love and thanks flowed into the ointment. Quietly, she knelt down and wiped Jesus’ feet with her long, flowing hair.

Probably no one would have noticed if it weren’t for the fragrance. It smelled so good and quickly filled the whole room. People started talking. “That stuff is expensive!” they whispered to each other. “It cost what a man earns in a whole year! If she had sold it, the money could have been given to the poor. What a waste!”

Simon had a different thought. *If Jesus really were a prophet, He wouldn’t let that woman touch Him. She’s a terrible sinner!*

Mary was caught; and she was embarrassed.

Jesus knew what Simon was thinking. He also knew what Mary was feeling. “Leave her alone,” He told the whisperers. “You’ll always have the poor with you, but you won’t always have Me. She has done a beautiful thing for Me.”

And then Jesus turned to Simon. “Two men owed money to the same money lender,” He said. “One man owed 500 denari. The other owed 50 denari. The money lender knew neither man could pay him back, so he canceled their debts. Which one do you think loved him more?”

“I suppose the one who had the bigger debt,” said Simon.

“You’re right,” said Jesus. “When I came into your house, you didn’t wash My feet. You didn’t pour oil on My head. You didn’t even give Me a kiss of peace. But this woman did all that and more. She has been forgiven for a lot, and she loves Me a lot.”

Jesus showed respect for Mary, the least acceptable person at the party. He had even praised her efforts above Simon’s. The last person anyone would



have expected became a good example. That kind of respect took Mary by surprise. She was used to being unloved and left out. Now she was being appreciated.

We all know people like Mary—people who get ignored or picked on. Jesus treated Mary kindly. He made her feel wanted and respected. He wants to include every person in His family just as He did Mary. And He wants us to treat one another the same way He treats us.

## **Daily Activities**

### **Sabbath**

- Ask your family to sit as people did in Jesus' day. Remove your shoes. Lie on your left side on a make-believe couch. Hold your feet away from a make-believe table, and lean on your left elbow. While in this position, share some food. Then read the Bible lesson story together. Imagine that the people in the story are with you. What are they thinking about? Talk about it together.

- Teach your memory verse to your family.

### **Sunday**

- For family worship, sit around a table together. Serve only half of your family a sweet treat. Discuss how it feels to be left out. Then share with each other so everyone has some of the treat. Tell about people you have seen being left out. Talk about what you did or could have done to help them. Read James 3:17 together. What does this text mean to you?

- Say your memory verse together before prayer.

### **Monday**

- Play "musical chairs" for family worship. (Play music, and suddenly stop it. Everyone must quickly find a seat.) Put out only enough chairs for about half of your family. Talk about how it feels to be left out.

- With your family, read aloud Luke 7:36–50. How did Jesus make a left-out woman feel included? What can you do to include others as Jesus did? Ask Him to help you.

- Say your memory verse from memory.

### **Tuesday**

- During family worship, read Mark 14:5 together. Talk about Mary's gift. One denarius was a day's pay in Jesus' time. Mary's perfume cost more than 300 denari. Her gift was worth about a year's wages! What does this tell you about Mary's feelings for Jesus?

- Ask an adult to help you find out what a year's wages are today.

- If you could give Jesus a gift, what would it be? Draw a picture that tells. How much would you spend?

- Say your memory verse. Pray for the homeless in your town.

### **Wednesday**

- During family worship, write a happy note to someone who is often forgotten. (Perhaps a person in a nursing home.) Add a message from God, such as Jeremiah 31:3 and draw a picture on your note. Mail it or deliver it yourself. Pray for that person today.

- Sing "We Are His Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 129).

- Say your memory verse to three people.

### **Thursday**

- With your family read Mark 14:1–9. What new things did you learn about this story?

- Recall a time when you felt that someone left you out. Share how you felt. What will you do if you see someone left out at school?

- Tell or write what your memory verse means in your own words. Then pray for students at your school.

### **Friday**

- Bring at least five different fragrant things to family worship (include good and bad smells). Have everyone take turns smelling them. Ask: Which smells good? Which smells bad? Which would you like to smell most often? Thank God for things that smell good.

- Read Matthew 7:12 together and talk about it. What is this verse often called?

- Retell the Bible lesson by sitting in a circle with your family. Ask each to add a sentence to the story. Start at the beginning and go around the circle. Say your memory verse at the end.