

Materials I Need:

Legend:


 = Option 1, Appropriate for 1st - 2nd Grade

 = Option 2, Appropriate for 3rd - 6th Grade

Bolded Words in Story = Key Concepts to Highlight during the Bible Adventure

Memory Work:

 "But he who has been forgiven little loves little." Luke 7:47b

 "Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven – for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little." Luke 7:47

Aim Questions:

1. What did Jesus do for the Roman centurion?
2. What did Jesus do for the widowed woman?
3. What answer did Jesus give to John the Baptist's question?
4. Tell the story that Jesus told Simon the Pharisee. What point was Jesus making?
5. Of the people in this passage, who are you most like, the Roman, the woman, John the Baptist, or Simon the Pharisee? Do you believe?

3 Hook:

CPR from the ER? (Discussion). Have you ever heard of someone whose heart may have stopped or they quit breathing? What emergency measures do others have to do to resuscitate someone who is in this state? If these people 'come back to life,' were they really dead in the first place? Listen to today's Adventure to hear what measures Jesus took for a heartbroken mother who's only son had died.

Mother, May I in Reverse (Game). Have a teacher be the 'Mother/Father' and have students line up at the starting line. But instead of them asking to move forward, "Mother/Father" will tell the students to move accordingly. However, after they are told to move they must first ask, "By whose authority?" The teacher must answer, "By the authority of (teacher's last name)." If they remember to ask, they may proceed forward. If they forget, they must go back to the starting line.

Impossible Game (Game). Divide the class into teams. Give them an impossible task. The first team to admit that the task is impossible is the winner. Here are some ideas:

1. Figure out the secret for fitting a bowling ball into a milk jug. (It would be fun to show these objects).
2. Turn a book over from ten feet away.
3. Walk across the room, up the wall, back across the ceiling (upside down), down the wall, and back across the floor to the starting line.



Book:

Presentation Ideas -



Jesus Raises the Dead (Illustration/Overhead). “Then He went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, ‘Young man, I say to you, get up!’ The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.” Luke 7:14-15, **BLUK06.GF1.**



Jesus Dines with the Pharisee (Illustration/Overhead). “Now, one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so He went to the Pharisee’s house and reclined at the table.” Luke 7:36, **BLUK06.GF2.**



Woman Anoints Jesus’ Feet (Illustration/Overhead). “When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee’s house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, and as she stood behind Him at His feet weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. Luke 7:37-38, **BLUK06.GF3.**

Bible Adventure -

Are there things that you absolutely cannot do? I don’t mean things that you or I avoid. Are there things that are impossible for us to ever do? What are a few of them?

There are also things that Jesus could never do. Did you know that? Jesus cannot lie. Jesus can never die again for our sin. Jesus will never change His mind about the forgiveness that He has given to those who trust and follow Him. But you know what??? When Jesus was here on earth, there were many things that He **could** do that people did not think were possible.

Jesus was and is one of a kind. There has never been anyone quite like Him, and there never will be. People were amazed. That is one reason so many people came to see Jesus. They just could not believe what they were hearing about all of the things He was doing. His nation, the Jews, should have more eager to believe in Jesus than anyone. They had been waiting for the Messiah to come. Growing up, they knew from reading and memorizing the Old Testament that the Messiah would do great things, even things that other people thought impossible. Unfortunately, when Jesus their Messiah came, many of them did not believe in Jesus even after seeing His miracles with their own eyes. Of all people they should have believed, especially since they had read about incredible miracles that were done through prophets like Moses and Elijah.

There was a commander in the Roman army who needed Jesus’ help. Luke tells us that he was called a Centurion in Luke 7:2. He was a man who had a lot of authority and power because he had an army of 100 soldiers under his command. This man was not born into the Jewish nation. He was a Roman, also called a Gentile. If you remember, the Jews did not like the Romans. As a Roman, this man probably did not grow up hoping for the Messiah that was written about in the Old Testament. He was not a person that you would have expected to trust in Jesus at all, but he did.

The Roman centurion had a servant in his house that was very sick. He did not want to bother Jesus with this problem, but if something was not done, his servant who meant a lot to him would die. Jews were not permitted to go into the homes of Romans, so the centurion sent a message to Jesus asking for help. He told Jesus that he need not come to his home to help. The Roman Centurion believed that Jesus could do what everyone else thought was impossible. He believed that all Jesus had to do was say the word, and his servant would be healed, even with Jesus far away. In Luke 7:9, it says that Jesus marveled at the Centurion’s faith, especially because His own people, the Jews, did not even believe that Jesus could do such things.

Jesus proceeded to a city called Nain. Lots of people were following. As they all approached the city, they watched a funeral procession headed out to bury a man. The dead man was the only son of a widow. Without a son or a husband, this widow would be without someone to care for her. Jesus chose that very moment to do something that no one thought possible. He reached out, touched the coffin and told the dead man to rise. It is impossible for you or me to bring someone who is totally dead back to life, but it is not impossible for Jesus. After Jesus finished giving the man back to his mother alive, the

people who were watching were blown away.

In the meanwhile, John the Baptist had been thrown in prison by King Herod. He didn't like John criticizing him for divorcing his wife and marrying his sister-in-law. The news of Jesus' impossible feats had reached John in prison. No one knows why John wanted to ask a question, but he **sent his disciples to speak** to Jesus. John's question was, "Are you the One who is coming, or do we look for someone else?" Now John knew that Jesus was the Messiah because he had seen the Holy Spirit descend on Him and had heard God's Voice call from heaven at His baptism. Though He knew who Jesus was, maybe John was unsure as to how Jesus would establish God's Kingdom. Jesus answered John's question with these words, "Go report to John what you have seen and heard: the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are made well, the deaf can hear, the dead are raised, and the poor hear the gospel." All of the things that Jesus was doing were impossible for other men to do. He must have been God's Son.

Everyone accepted what Jesus said about John the Baptist except the Pharisees. Pharisees were a group of Jews who thought that they obeyed the Law of God better than anyone else. They had refused to be baptized by John because they did not want to admit that they had sin in their lives.

One of the Pharisees, named Simon, asked Jesus to come to his house for dinner. While Jesus was eating, a woman with a bad reputation in the town came in to anoint Jesus' feet with perfume. Pouring perfume on someone's feet was a way of showing honor in those days. This woman would have never been allowed in Simon's house, but since Jesus was there, many people were watching. Simon did not say a word.

As the woman came to the feet of Jesus, she was overcome with emotion. She cried so hard, that she wet Jesus' feet with her tears. I don't think she had planned to cry all over Jesus' feet. She did not even have a towel with her to wipe them dry. Instead, the woman used her own hair to wipe her tears from Jesus' feet. She even kissed Jesus' feet while anointing it with sweet smelling perfume.

Simon the Pharisee could not believe it. If Jesus really were a prophet, he thought, He would know how awful this woman was, and He certainly would not allow her to touch Him. Jesus surprised Simon. He knew what Simon was thinking, even though Simon had said nothing. Jesus spoke a parable to Simon. Read Luke 7:40-47. What point was Jesus trying to make to Simon? Can you see it? The **woman** was crying out of gratitude. She knew that Jesus could forgive her for all of the awful things she had done. What she had heard and seen of Jesus had convinced this crying woman that He was special. He could do things that no one else could do, even forgiving sins. She was grateful.

Simon, on the other hand, had probably only invited Jesus over for dinner so he could find fault with Him. Simon obviously did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God, and most definitely he would not come to Jesus for forgiveness of his sins. Jesus' point was simple for Simon the Pharisee. People who have really been forgiven of their sins are overwhelmingly grateful. People who think they don't even need forgiveness are mostly skeptical. They do not want to believe. This lady loved Jesus very much because she believed that Jesus had the power to do incredible things, including forgive her. Simon did not believe, and he did not love Jesus.

At this, Jesus turned to the woman and forgave her sins out loud. The people who were watching were astounded.

Here is a very important thing for you to remember. The miraculous things that Jesus had done are proof that He had power and authority to forgive sins. The question is always going to be, "Do you believe that Jesus was the Son of God?" His own nation had trouble believing, especially the leaders of the Jewish religion. But a Roman Centurion, a Widow, and a sinful woman did believe. How about you?



Look:



Bible Search (Activity/Discussion). Assign students to look up the following verses:

Luke 7: 9 - 10 Luke 7: 14 - 15 Luke 7: 21 Luke 7: 39 - 40 Luke 7: 48

What thing did Jesus do in each passage that was impossible for an ordinary man to do?

Discussion: which one do you think was the **most** impossible and why?



Bible Search II (Activity/Discussion). How many other times did Jesus raise a person (*besides*

Himself) from the dead? Look up Mark 5: 22-24 and 35-42 (*Jairus' daughter*) and John 11:38-44 (*Lazarus*).

Journey With Jesus. Make entries in your journals. Any disciple might write something like this: *We are amazed at the things Jesus does. He does things that no ordinary man could ever do. In Capernaum, He healed a centurion's servant without even going near the sick man! Then in Nain, He did something even more amazing. He brought a dead man back to life! When Jesus was having dinner at a Pharisee's house, he forgave the sins of a woman who came to honor Him. Only God Himself could do that!*

Empty Perfume Bottle (Craft). Students will need: A small empty bottle (you could serve fruit drinks that come in small plastic bottles and rinse them out when the drink is gone), some sequins and/or "jewels," glue, and a very small amount of perfume. Have students decorate the bottles by gluing on the jewels. Then put a drop or two of perfume inside.

Discussion: We can't (*and probably wouldn't*) show our love for Jesus by pouring perfume on His feet, but He will certainly accept our gestures of love. What can we do to show our Savior that we love Him? When you see your "perfume bottle," remember to show Jesus in your own way how much you love Him.

Parable of the Debtors (Worksheet). Color the picture, and use the numbers and symbols provided to fill in the blanks. What did Jesus want the Pharisee to understand from this little story? BLUK06.GF4.

Role-Play the Miracles (Drama). Healing for the Centurion's servant - Luke 7: 2-10; Life for the widow's son - Luke 7: 12-16; and Forgiveness for the sinful woman - Luke 7: 36- 50. Divide the class into three groups - each one with a teacher. Have each group read one miracle and prepare to present it to the class by **silently acting out the story as the teacher reads the passage.** Student actors could read their characters quotations from the Bible. Provide simple props and costumes: a large white T-shirt for those who play the role of Jesus, a handkerchief to cover the face of the dead man, and a perfume bottle.

Forget-Me-Not Fingernails (Craft). Luke Chapter 7 tells of two miracles that Jesus performed: the healing of the centurion's servant and the raising of the widow's dead son. To help students remember these awesome miracles students will need:

1" x 6" piece of brightly colored Contact paper
Fine tip felt marker
Scissors

Have each child draw fingernails on the Contact paper. Then, with markers, let each one print the first letter of each miracle on each fingernail. Cut out each nail, peel off backing and place them in order on their fingers. Miracles: JESUS HEALS THE CENTURION'S SERVANT
JESUS RAISES THE _WIDOW'S SON


Find the Memory Verse (Worksheet). Have students copy the memory verse in the space provided. The verse begins at the first arrow and wraps around the corners in the direction of the next arrow with no space in-between the words, **BLUK06.GF5.**




Took:

Forgiveness (Discussion). To be forgiven by Jesus, we have to believe that He has the power and authority to forgive sins. The miracles He performed were the proof. Jesus forgave freely, can you forgive others who may wrong you just as easily? Luke 6:37 tells us to "Forgive, and you will be forgiven." Forgiving others is an important step in seeking God's forgiveness in our own lives.

The Centurion's Secret (Song). "The Centurion's Secret" from the King of Kings tape. Can also be found in the Kid's Singalong songbook. (*Both from integrity Music*).

 **Heavy Load (Relay Game).** You will need one heavy-duty backpack and bricks or rocks labeled with the following words: Anger, Jealousy, Lying, Hatred, Cheating, Envy, Gossip, Pride, Idolatry, Filthy Language. Give each team a backpack and a pile of labeled bricks or rocks. Have them line up. At the signal, the first student must load one brick into the backpack, zip it up, put it on their back, run to a marked destination where a teacher will relieve them of their heavy load while their backpack is still on, and then run back to the start line. The next student is to then take two bricks, have them unloaded and run back. Play continues with increasing loads each time by one. The team with all their load carried and unloaded wins. Discussion: Which of the players were most relieved when their heavy load was taken off? The one with little bricks or the one with many? Re-read the parable of the two debtors who were forgiven in Luke 7:41-43 and make the application for today.

 **To Tell the Truth (Game).** Will the real forgiven one please stand up? Select three teachers/helpers to portray three debtors who have been forgiven their debts. Only one of them is the true forgiven debtor and the other two are just masquerading as fakes. Ask for volunteers to make up a panel to ask the “debtors” questions that will reveal their true identity. You will also need a host to clock the time each panel member has for questions and to introduce the guest debtors. Before commencing, the host will introduce each “debtor” with some background information such as: This is Debtor #1, he says he was just on the verge of bankruptcy and was soon to lose his home when an unknown man claiming to be His Savior told him that all debts had been paid and that his house and all his possessions were free and clear.” Debtors #2 and #3 may be introduced in the same way but with a different story in which the Savior has forgiven them for different amounts and in different ways all their debts. Panel members may then question the debtors in turn with a designated time limit. The teacher who is portraying the real debtor should make his/her story very believable showing how grateful and overwhelmed he/she felt with such forgiveness and grace demonstrated towards them. The other teachers portraying the fake forgiven debtors could answer questions either half-hearted or maybe state that they have since made some lavish purchases and are now in debt again. Be careful not to make it too obvious or the game will not prove interesting. When all panel members have had a chance to interview the debtors they must place their vote on a large sheet of paper on which they will write #1, #2, or #3 to signify which one they think is the true forgiven debtor. After the voting time is up, have each panel member turn their card over one at a time and tell the audience why they feel it is the particular debtor they chose. After each panel member has cast their vote, the host of the game then says, “Will the true forgiven debtor please stand up?” Panel members who voted for the correct debtor will receive a prize for being able to recognize a truly thankful and grateful heart of a person who has been forgiven. DEBRIEF: How so we show our thankfulness to God for the many “debts” He has forgiven us?

Options:

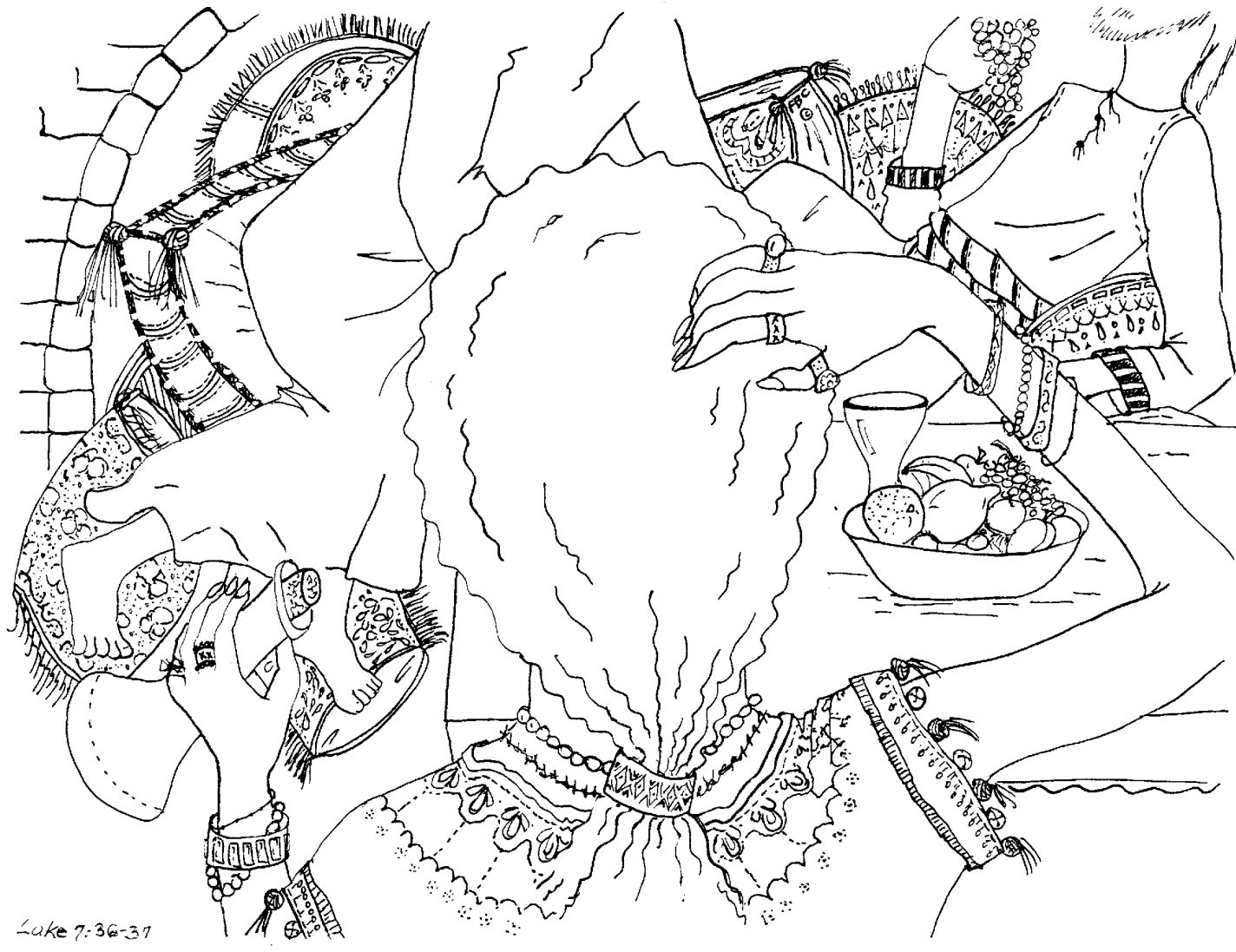
1. The rest of the class may be split into groups of “counselors” for each panel member to help them with their questions and voting.
2. A list of suggested questions might be written on cards for the panel members.

Jesus Raises the Dead



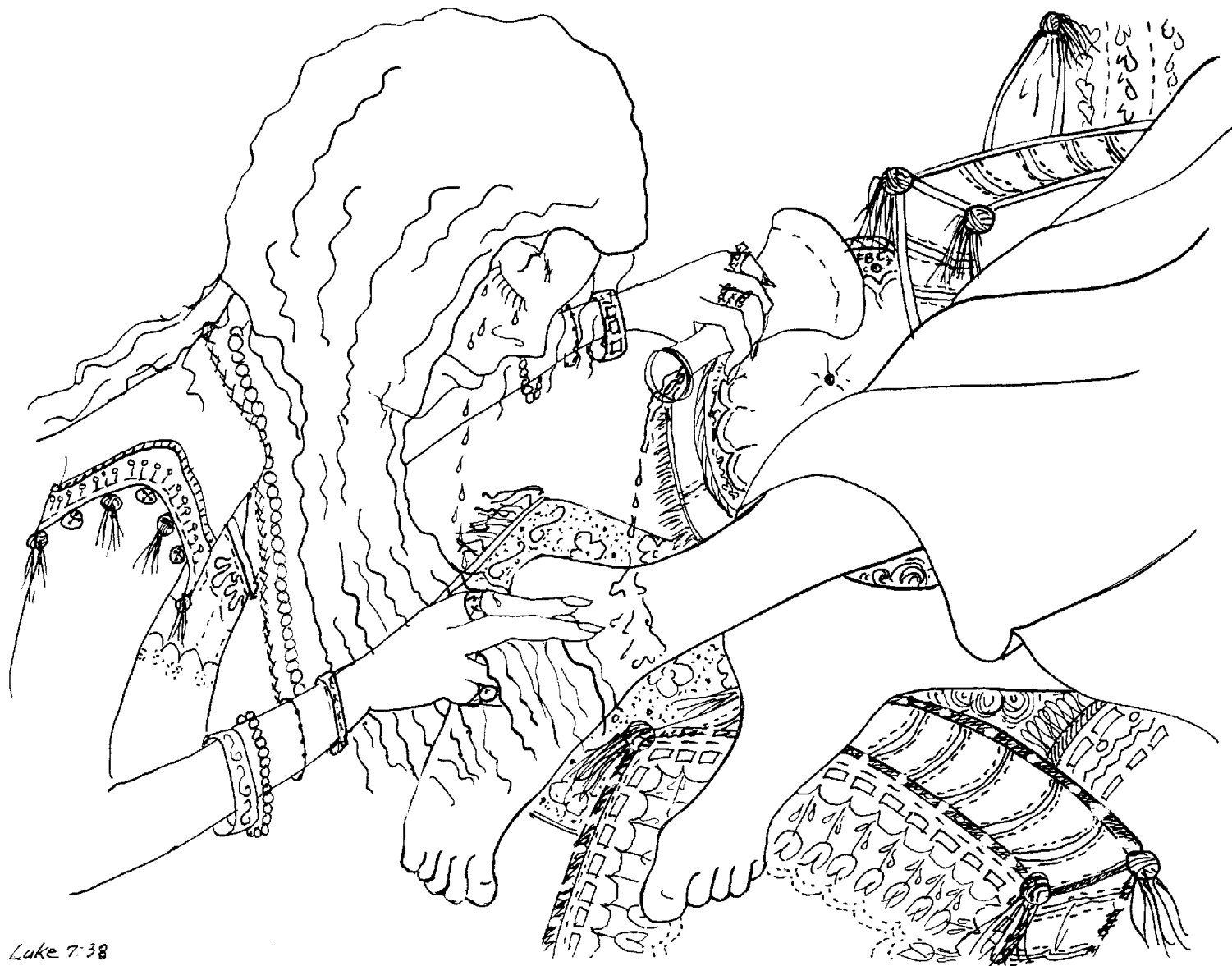
Luke 7:14-15

Jesus Dines with the Pharisee



Luke 7:36-37

Woman Anoints Jesus' Feet



Luke 7:38

Parable of the Debtors

Color the picture and use the numbers and symbols provided to fill in the blanks. What did Jesus want the Pharisee to understand from this little story?

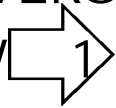
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








_____ men owed _____ to a certain _____-lender.




_____ owed him _____ denarri, and the other _____.

Neither of them had the _____ to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will _____ him more? Luke 7: 41, 42

FIND THE MEMORY VERSE
START AT ARROW 
COPY THE LETTERS IN THE
SPACE BELOW

	B	U	T	H	E	W	H	
	E	E	B	D	A	H	O	
	N	F	O	R	G	I	V	
	E	N	L	I	T	T	L	
	L	S	E	V	O	L	E	
	I	T	T	L	E	L	U	
	B	7	4	:	7	E	K	

FIND THE MEMORY VERSE
START AT ARROW 
COPY THE LETTERS IN THE
SPACE BELOW

	B	U	T	H	E	W	H	
	E	E	B	D	A	H	O	
	N	F	O	R	G	I	V	
	E	N	L	I	T	T	L	
	L	S	E	V	O	L	E	
	I	T	T	L	E	L	U	
	B	7	4	:	7	E	K	