



CROWN™

Advancing God's Principles of Stewardship and Life.

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

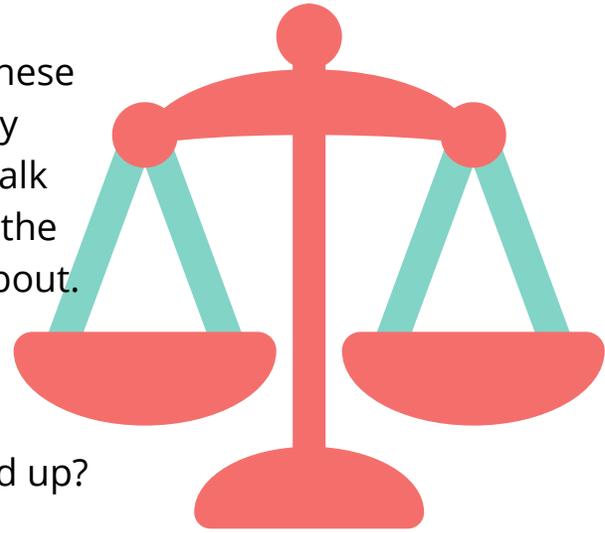
Worship at Home with CROWN

Topic: LUKE 7: 36-50, Jesus welcomes
SINNERS



DEVOTIONAL

Read Luke 7: 36-50. After reading, try using some of these conversation starters to spark some ideas. Your family may have some of their own ideas they are ready to talk about. Use this time to let your children process how the story made them feel and what it made them think about.



Spark a Conversation:

- I wonder how the host felt when a stranger showed up?
- Why was she crying?
- What did the disciples think about her? What did Jesus think?
- Why did Jesus compare our sins to debt?

Reflection:

When a sinful woman who no one invited came in and reached out to Jesus, the host and guests must have felt very uncomfortable. Some of the guests may have been wondering, “Doesn’t Jesus know that I am much more important than this woman? I am very religious and follow all the rules, and this woman breaks them all the time. Why is he talking to her?” Jesus knew that the guests were thinking this, and that is why he shared the story about the two people whose debt was forgiven.

Have you ever broken or lost something expensive and been afraid of how its owner would react? Then, when you told them what happened, they forgave you? That feeling is such a relief! Through this parable, Jesus explains that there are people who feel like God can never forgive them because they have made too many mistakes. When God forgives these people, they feel like it is a huge surprise and are so thankful! Every single person is sinful — that is just what happened at the beginning of time when Adam and Eve broke the rule God gave them. Therefore, we should all feel grateful like the woman in the passage and like the person with the huge debt that was forgiven. It also means that we need to be like Jesus, and be willing to forgive people who have made big mistakes. We should not judge or ignore people who have done bad things or that our friends tell us are bad people. As followers of Christ, we are meant to love everyone.



FRESH AIR

Grasp a better understanding of what it means for God to forgive a big debt through this racing game.

Supplies:

Dice

Clear tupperware container with lid

In this game, you will set up a racing area somewhere in your yard. It could be as simple as going to the end of your driveway, or as complicated as creating an obstacle course using sticks or other outdoor toys you have to maneuver around or dodge. Place a single die in the tupperware container and secure the lid tightly so it does not get lost outside. Now, each racer can take their place at the starting line. On their turn they can shake the box to see how many steps they are allowed to take (this responsibility can also be given to a 'referee'). The goal is to reach the finish line in as few turns as possible.

After the first few games, introduce an additional die to the container so you have two. You can also let the children add to the race course by making obstacles or making it longer. Now when they move, they can take the sum of the two dice. After another couple of games, if you have enough dice, play one game with as many dice as you want, maybe where the racers can reach the finish line in just one or two shakes.

Making the Connection:

- How did rolling bigger numbers help you reach the finish line faster? If you want to win quickly, you are thankful to roll those big numbers!
- What does it mean that Jesus forgives us of a whole lot? How is it like rolling a big number with the dice?

GETTING CRAFTY



A BIG Thank You

Supplies:

-Any craft supplies you have on hand

Usually when we think of thank you cards, we imagine something we can seal in an envelope and put in the mailbox. Your challenge today is to create the biggest thank you 'card' that you can. Your family can make this a thank you card to Jesus, or you could make one for a family member or friend who deserves some extra special appreciation. For example, you could tape together rows of construction paper to make a giant card, use chalk to transform your entire driveway into a display of thanks, create a fort from shipping boxes and cover it in messages of gratitude, or sew a thankfulness quilt. The only limit is your imagination. Your children should take time to plan out exactly what they want to create and how you plan to achieve it. Encourage your children to think outside of the box and use unusual materials. This project should take some time, and for older or very patient children they may even want to do it over the span of several days. The experience should be fun and worshipful. Once the creation is finished, photograph it, and take time to reflect on the experience of creating it.

Making the Connection:

- How did spending all this time and effort being thankful make you feel?
- Have you made a regular thank you card before? How was this experience different?

FAITHFUL FINANCES



God has entrusted each of us with a lot, including our finances. You may want to have your child start or reconsider their budget this week. Crown recommends children follow the below percentages as they get familiar with having a budget.

10% - Giving: This should go to your church each Sunday. Your child may want to allocate some of their spending money towards additional giving if there is a charity, missionary, or other cause they would like to give to.

25% - Save a Little (*Short-Term Savings*): Short-term savings is for purchases that will take three to five weeks to save for.

25% - Save a Lot (*Long-Term Savings*): Long-term savings is for purchases that will take a few months to afford.

40% - Spending: This is money that your child can spend whenever they are allowed to shop. It can be spent on anything within the family rules for purchases, but once it's gone, it's gone.

As you discuss these amounts with your child, use the Save a Little and Save a Lot categories to make a connection to this week's passage. As we save a lot, there is more we are able to do, and usually we will feel more excited about what we're able to purchase. Reflect with them how that is similar to how we should feel towards Jesus as He can forgive all the people in the world of a lot.

Note: If you are not able to give your child an allowance to manage and they have no way of earning other funds, invite them to be a part of managing your family's budget. Simplify some of your finances to fit within these easy to understand categories to give your child a glimpse at how money should be managed. You can disregard the percentages as they do not apply to an adult budget.

GIVING BACK

When the woman washed and anointed Jesus' feet he welcomed her even though the other guests wanted her to leave. Many times we are tempted to judge people who have made bad decisions, and we do not treat them with love as we should. Consider people in your town who others may have left out or not treated well. For example, people who are homeless, in prison, or who need help from a food pantry. Make a donation, either through canned goods or a family offering to an organization that helps people who society often treats as outsiders.



When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly." - Luke 7: 42-43

