**MUD AND THE MASTERPIECE: WEEK 2**

**DEVOTIONAL: LUKE 7:41-47**

**JESUS IS NEVER SHOCKED**

**THIS ACTIVITY CAN BE DONE IN ANY SETTING, ON DAY**

For children:

* Get a pair of your mom’s/dad’s/brother’s/sister’s favorite shoes and clean them with a damp cloth.  How clean can you get them?  Can you make them shine like new?

For teens and adults:

* What’s the most shocking/unbelievable act of kindness you have ever witnessed?  What’s the most surprising act of kindness anyone has ever done for YOU?
* How weird would it be if your friend offered to wash your feet when you visited their home?

**READ LUKE 7:36-50**

When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee’s house and reclined at the table. 37A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee’s house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. 38As 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.

When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner.”

Jesus answered him, “Simon, I have something to tell you.”

“Tell me, teacher,” he said.

“Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%207%3A36-50#fen-NIV-25237a)] and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?”

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

“You have judged correctly,” Jesus said.

Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet.You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.”

Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

The other guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?”

Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

**AS FAMILIY, FRIENDS OR INDIVIDUALLY ANSWER/JOUNAL THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

* Why was washing your guest’s feet a big deal in Jesus’ time?
* *In Jesus’s time, it was a sign of respect to wash your guest’s feet when then entered your home.*
* Who determined the woman was a sinner?
  + *Simon the Pharisee (the host of the dinner) called her a sinner.  In Jesus’ time, the Pharisees were the religious leaders that instructed the people as to what was righteous and what was sinful. They tended to focus on the outward appearances, as opposed to the true condition of the heart*.
* Who was shocked and offended by the situation?
  + *Simon the Pharisee*
* Was Simon more offended by the action (washing Jesus’ feet) or by who was doing it (a sinful woman)?
  + *Simon was more offended by who was doing the washing.  He was shocked that Jesus was allowing a sinful woman to wash his feet.  Simon believed she was ‘too sinful’ to be allowed in Jesus’ presence*.
* Who did the people in Jesus’ story represent?
  + *Jesus told about one person who owed a lot of money and another who owed very little.  The person who owed a great sum was the ‘sinful’ woman and the person who owed little was Simon and the Pharisees.  In Jesus’ story, the amount of money owed corresponds to the degree of ‘sinfulness’ that each person appeared to have.*
* What did Jesus mean when he said “whoever has been forgiven little, loves little” (v. 47)?
  + *He was commenting on the difference in attitudes towards him shown by Simon and the woman.*
* This week, pray for God to make us aware of situations where we may determine a person’s worth by their current situation or mistakes we think they may have made.  Pray that we may see them through Jesus’ eyes and find a way to reach them through His love.