

The Great Chess Game

Key Word: **Forgiven**

Key Verse: Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little. *Luke 7:47*

On Stephen's fifth birthday, his grandfather gave him a chess set. After that, Stephen and his grandpa played chess together whenever they could.

There was only one problem for Stephen. He never won. Grandpa was always one step ahead.

One day when Stephen was nine, he set out the board as usual, and sat down with Grandpa. With ever increasing confidence Stephen made his moves, until he moved a pawn to the wrong square.

But it looked as if Grandpa hadn't noticed, because at that very moment he got up for one of his frequent trips to the bathroom. In a flash, Stephen corrected his mistake. When Grandpa returned, the game continued, and for the first time ever, Stephen beat his grandpa.

After that, Stephen went from strength to strength. Chess continued to be the all-absorbing passion in his life, and he played whenever he could.

But then Grandpa became ill. He was taken to the hospital by ambulance, and Stephen went to visit him. Stephen sat by his bedside holding his hand. Suddenly he blurted out, "There's something I have to say to you. Do you remember the first time I beat you? How thrilled we all were? Well, I cheated." And with that, Stephen began to sob. Suddenly, after all this time, he was deeply ashamed of himself.

The old man patted his hand. "I know," he said.

"But you didn't say anything! You hugged and kissed me as though I'd done it all by myself!"

Grandpa squeezed his hand. "It's you I love, not whether you win or lose, or even how you behave."

"So you forgave me right from that moment, even though I didn't really think I'd done anything much wrong?"

Grandpa nodded. "Forgiveness was always there, only you weren't able to receive it until now. But, Stephen, you've made me so very happy. Now you can play your chess for both of us. And one day, we'll meet again."

Grandpa died the next day, and Stephen was deeply sad for a long time. But Stephen never forgot his grandfather's love and forgiveness. And he never cheated again.

Questions

Why did Jesus say the woman's sins were forgiven?

In the story, why did Stephen's grandpa forgive him?

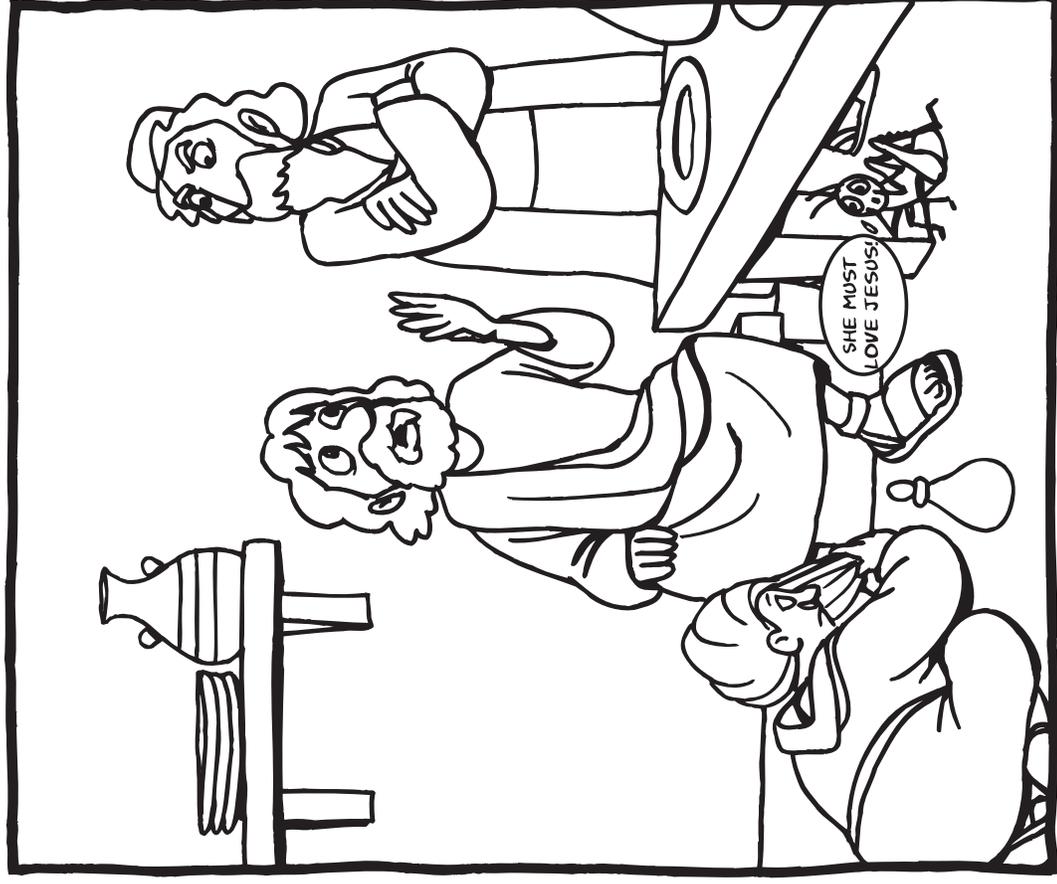
- PICTURE DIFFERENCES
- Mouth is new
 - Hair is shorter
 - Stitching around neck
 - Plate is missing
 - Urn has stripes
 - Jar has contents
 - Foot is missing
 - Shelf is lower
 - Hood is smaller
 - Finger is missing.

- CROSSWORD PUZZLE
- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| Across | Down |
| 4. Faith | 1. Mary |
| 5. Hair | 2. Pharisees |
| 6. Ointment | 3. Peace |
| 7. Twelve | |
| 8. Sins | |

Answers

LETTER TILE PUZZLE

And He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."



Gospel Grams

Today's Gospel Story
is from
Luke 7:36-8:3

