

Battlefield 13 – Leader's Guide

Jesus Forgives Bad People

See Bible study at bottom of the page.

- 1. What lies does the enemy tell us about God? (He tells us God is mean and wants to punish us. He says that God holds a grudge and won't forgive us.)**
- 2. What kind of a man is Simon? (He's a strict religious Jew.)**
- 3. Describe the uninvited woman who comes to the dinner. (She is immoral with a bad reputation, probably a prostitute.)**
- 4. What was the cultural practice regarding uninvited guests in Jesus' day? (They could come into a party, sit by the wall, and listen.)**
- 5. What does the woman bring with her? What does she do? (She brings a bottle of really expensive perfume. She kneels at Jesus' feet and cries. She wipes his feet with her hair, kisses his feet, and puts perfume on them.)**
- 6. Why is she crying? (She is really sorry for her past. She wants to change.)**
- 7. What is Simon thinking? (He thinks Jesus should separate himself from this bad woman. He looks down on Jesus and judges Him for letting the woman touch him. He thinks Jesus is not much of a prophet.)**
- 8. What parable does Jesus tell Simon? (A banker has 2 debtors. One owes 500 coins and the other 50. Neither can pay, so He forgives them both.)**
- 9. Who is the man in the story who owes 500 coins? Who is the man who owes 50 coins? (The man who owes 500 = the immoral woman. The man who owes 50 = Simon.)**
- 10. Who is the banker in the story? (The banker is Jesus.)**
- 11. Who loves Jesus more – the woman or Simon? Why? (The woman loves Jesus more because she's been forgiven more.)**
- 12. What basic hospitality does Simon neglect? See verses 44-46. (He doesn't wash Jesus' feet, greet Jesus with a kiss, or anoint Jesus' head with oil.)**
- 13. What does Jesus say to the immoral woman in Luke 7:48? (He tells her that her sins have been forgiven.)**

- 14. What does this tell us about Jesus? (He has authority to forgive sins. He is God!)**
- 15. How do the men at the table feel when Jesus forgives a bad woman? See Luke 7:49. (They are offended. They don't think Jesus has that authority.)**
- 16. Does Simon have any debt to God? Does he see it? What bad things has he done? (Yes! Simon has debt! He is blind to it! He is proud and unloving. He's judgmental and critical. He does not honor Jesus and gives him minimal hospitality.)**
- 17. What does Jesus mean in verse 50 when he tells the woman, "Your faith has saved you."? (The woman believes that Jesus can make her clean and forgive her sins. He will die on the cross for her.)**

Battlefield 13 - Jesus Forgives Bad People

Bible Study

Luke 7: 36-50 Who Is Jesus?

- Accepts a dinner invitation v.36
- Reclines at table (eats on his side with feet behind him)
- Allows a “sinner” to touch him v.39
- Knows what Simon is thinking. v.40
- Teacher v.40
- Tells a parable, story about 2 sinners.
- Jesus = banker in the story.
- He cancels the debt of 2 debtors: woman and Simon
- Forgives ALL our debts v.42
- Compares woman’s actions to Simon’s v. 44-46
- Tells bad woman she is forgiven v. 48
- Has authority to forgive because He is God! v.49
- Encourages woman. Sees her heart. Praises her faith. v.50

Who Is Man?

- Simon, a Jewish religious leader, invites Jesus for dinner v.36
- Uninvited local people could come in to dinners, stand against the wall, and quietly listen in that culture
- Woman is “sinner”, probably a prostitute. Has bad reputation v.37
- Woman overcomes fear of rejection even though uninvited
- Seeks out Jesus, brings expensive perfume in alabaster (stone) bottle v.37
- Kneels at Jesus’ feet weeping. Tears fall on Jesus’ feet. Is sorry for her sins.
- Wipes feet with her hair. Keeps kissing feet, putting perfume on them.
- Spends a lot of money on Jesus. Act of worship. v.38
- Has loose hair = sign of mourning, grieving. Wants to change her life.

- Pharisee is critical of Jesus. Wonders why he doesn't separate himself from "bad" woman? v.39
- Woman = person who owes \$500. Has a bigger debt to God.
- Simon = person who owes \$50. Has smaller debt to God.
- Both people have a debt they can't repay v.42
- Simon doesn't see his own debt, think he needs forgiveness. Blind. Proud.
- Woman loves Jesus more than Simon does. She's thankful! v. 44-46
- Simon gives Jesus minimum hospitality. Doesn't love or honor Him much.
- "Religious" people at dinner are offended when Jesus forgives. v.49
- Woman will enjoy new life of peace because of her faith

So What?

- Do I believe Jesus can forgive the bad things I've done?
- Am I thankful that my debt is cancelled? Do I love Jesus a little or a lot?
- Do I worship Jesus extravagantly (with my whole heart) like the woman?
- Do I look down on people who are sinners like Simon did?
- Am I blind to my own sin like Simon was?