

ENGLISH CORNER MENU
Learning English Through Discussion
HOSPITALITY &
FORGIVENESS

HOT TOPICS

It is International Women's Day on Tuesday, March 8th. Discuss: In your country:

1. What is the role of women? How has this role changed over the last 20 years? How would you like the role of women to change in the next 10 years?

Today's English Corner we will look at a famous story from the Bible about a woman and how she found forgiveness and acceptance from Jesus. To understand this story better, we first need to discuss how hospitality is shown to strangers.

1. Have you felt welcomed in Australia? How have people made you feel welcome or not welcome? What did they do?

(Discuss in pairs)

2. How are foreigners received or welcomed in your country? Did you ever have any foreigners for dinner in your country? *(Discuss in threes)*

3. Have you been to an Australian house for dinner? Was the hospitality different than in your country? *(Discuss in two groups)*

4. Today we are going to look at a story in the Bible from Luke 7:36-50. It is about hospitality and forgiveness. You will be the actors so that you can practice your reading and expression!

The Story:

Read through the story twice. After the first time, work out any words you don't understand. The second time read with expression!

Choose a role:

Narrator, Simon, Woman, Jesus and the Guest.

Setting: It is set in the Middle East, in the house of Simon a Pharisee (a Jewish priest), eating a meal. Simon had heard about the famous teacher called Jesus and invited him for dinner. A woman turns up. Read to see what happens!

VOCABULARY

Pharisee: a religious leader

Prostitute: someone who sells their body for sex.

Sinful: having done bad or wrong things against God.

Prophet: someone sent by God to tell people what to do, or say what will happen in the future.

Owe: to have to pay money back to someone

Debt: when you owe money to someone.

Forgiven: to restore a relationship. Not to punish him or her for what they deserve.

Hospitality: welcoming guests.

The Story – Luke 7:36 – 50 (CEV)

Narrator: A Pharisee invited Jesus to have dinner with him. So Jesus went to the Pharisee's home to eat. When a sinful woman in that town found out that Jesus was there, she bought an expensive bottle of perfume. Then she came and stood before Jesus. She cried and started washing his feet with her tears and drying them with her hair. The woman kissed his feet and poured the perfume on them. The Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw this and said to himself:

Simon: If this man really were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him! He would know that she is a sinner.

Narrator: Jesus said to Simon, the Pharisee:

Jesus: Simon, I have something to say to you.

Simon: Teacher, what is it?

Jesus: Two people were in debt to a money lender. One of them owed him 500 silver coins, and the other owed him 50. Since neither of them could pay him back, the moneylender said that they didn't have to pay him anything. Which one of them will like him more?

Simon: I suppose it would be the one who had owed more and didn't have to pay it back.

Jesus: You are right.

Narrator: Jesus turned towards the woman and said to Simon.

Jesus: Have you noticed this woman? When I came into your home, you didn't give me any water so I could wash my feet. But she has washed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You didn't greet me with a kiss, but from the time I came in, she has not stopped kissing my feet. You didn't even pour olive oil on my head, but she has poured expensive perfume on my feet. So I tell that all her sins are forgiven, and that is why she has shown great love. But anyone who has been forgiven for only a little will show only a little love.

Narrator: Then Jesus said to the woman.

Jesus: Your sins are forgiven.

Narrator: Some other guests started saying to one another:

Guest: Who is this who dares to forgive sins?

Narrator: But Jesus told the woman:

Jesus: Because of your faith, you are now saved. May God give you peace.

Teacher to interview:

Simon the Pharisee: How did you feel when the woman came and washed Jesus' feet?

The Woman: Why did you wash and kiss Jesus' feet?

Jesus: Why did you tell the story about the money lender?

DISCUSSION

In threes discuss:

1. What would you do if you knew that all your sins (all the bad things you have done) could be forgiven? How would you respond? (What would you do, how would you feel?)