

Jesus—Friend of Sinners Lesson 3

SuperTruth: I will be a friend to sinners.

SuperVerse: “But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love.” Luke 7:47b (NLT)

Bible Story: Matthew 9:9–13; Mark 2:13–17; Luke 7:36–50, 14:15–24

LARGE GROUP / GRADES 1–6

As followers of Jesus, our goal is to be like Him. That means being a friend not only to those who follow Him, but also those who don't. By doing this, we can help everyone experience God's love.

- Superbook takes Joy, Chris and Gizmo to witness three Bible stories: the parable of the great supper (banquet), the calling of Matthew the tax collector, and the woman caught in sin. Joy is surprised to see Jesus spend time with sinners, tax collectors, the poor, and those with disabilities. She decides to become more like Jesus by following His example.
- Let's watch the Signposts video to learn about how Jesus spent valuable time with those who desperately needed His love and mercy.

SMALL GROUP / GRADES 1–6

Game: Let's Talk! (15 minutes)

Objective: Play a game to complete the SuperTruth with others.

- Jesus interacted and made time for all people—even those who others ignored.

Game Instructions:

- In this game, you will divide into teams and build the SuperTruth by collecting the proper cards. You will need to interact with all the other teams to accomplish your goal.

Teaching: Forever Acceptable (15 minutes)

Objective: Discuss acceptance in the Old and New Testament.

- While on Earth, Jesus accepted and invited all people into God's Kingdom. God accepts anyone and everyone who comes to Him through His Son Jesus.

Take Home Activity—Discipleship Challenge (2 minutes)

- The craft is the Disciple Card. The challenge is to learn Matthew 5:16 and to spend time with Jesus, Christians and others.

SuperVerse: Superbook Volley (5 minutes)

Objective: Memorize the SuperVerse with a group activity.

- The sinful woman showed Jesus much love because she was so thankful to Jesus for accepting her and showing love, mercy and forgiveness, especially when others looked down on her.
- Partners will volley the balloon back and forth in the air as each player shouts one word of the verse in order as he/she hits the balloon back to the partner. Once the verse is completed, begin again and complete the verse as many times as possible before time expires.

Prayer: Friend Prayers (5 minutes)

Objective: Communicate with God.

- The woman who knelt at Jesus' feet could not stop crying tears of joy and thankfulness.
- In the first part of our prayer time, I would like you to close your eyes and silently thank God for forgiving your sins. In the second part of our prayer time, let's ask the Holy Spirit to fill us with God's love and kindness each day so we can reach out and be a friend to people around us who need to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Close in prayer.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES (REFER TO THE LESSON GUIDE FOR DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS)

Review Game: Play a game to review the Bible story. | **Grades 1–6** | 15 min

Active Game: Play a game to include the others. | **Grades 1–6** | 15 min

Coloring Activity: Color a scene from the Bible story. | **Grades 1–3** | 10 min

Bible Activity: Race to find verses about being a friend to sinners and everyone! | **Grades 4–6** | 15 min

Game Materials Needed:

- SuperTruth Card Page
- Cardstock—six sheets
- Scissors
- Whiteboard and marker, or chalkboard and chalk

Teaching Materials

Needed:

- Three Signpost Cards
- Three sheets of cardstock or paper
- Bibles or the Superbook Bible App

Discipleship Challenge materials:

- Disciple Cards for those who missed Lesson 1
- Sample craft made in Lesson 1

SuperVerse Materials

Needed:

- Whiteboard and marker, or chalkboard and chalk
- Eraser
- Round balloons, one per two children
- Bible or the Superbook Bible App

Prayer Materials Needed:

- Bible or the Superbook Bible App