



UP FRONT 154

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CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Christian Aid: Christian Aid Week is from 11th-17th May, and there will be envelopes available at church this Sunday and next for donations.

Quiz Night To supplement the donations, we (i.e. Jean Hastings and John Cross) will be running a quiz night in the Allan Church Community Hall on **Friday 23rd May at 7.30pm**. Teams of up to six people will answer questions on a variety of general knowledge topics in a fun evening lasting about 90 minutes, with a break for tea and biscuits. The cost is £5 per person. Teams will be arranged on the night - so you can come as an individual or with others you want as your teammates.

CONNECT GROUPS

Connect Groups start again this week, on Tuesday 13th May at 1.30pm at Marion Jarvie's home in Greenacre Court, and on Wednesday 14th May at 7.00pm at the home of John and Jan Cross in Stein Square. Discussion will focus this time on people Jesus met, with some discussion questions for this week's meetings attached. All are welcome to either meeting.

BOTSWANA TRIP

The United Free Church has long had a connection with Botswana, and the Global Focus Group, under the leadership of Rev Tricia Johnston, is organising a 10-day trip to Botswana in late June / July 2026 for 10 UF members. The cost of the trip is in the region of £2000-£2500. If you are interested in this, speak to John Cross who can give you more details and an application form.

Connect 1 The Pharisee and the Sinner

Bible Reading: Luke chapter 7 verses 36 – 50

A Pharisee invited Jesus to have dinner with him, and Jesus went to his house and sat down to eat. ³⁷ In that town was a woman who lived a sinful life. She heard that Jesus was eating in the Pharisee's house, so she brought an alabaster jar full of perfume ³⁸ and stood behind Jesus, by his feet, crying and wetting his feet with her tears. Then she dried his feet with her hair, kissed them, and poured the perfume on them. ³⁹ When the Pharisee saw this, he said to himself, "If this man really were a prophet, he would know who this woman is who is touching him; he would know what kind of sinful life she lives!"

⁴⁰ Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Yes, Teacher," he said, "tell me." ⁴¹ "There were two men who owed money to a moneylender," Jesus began. "One owed him five hundred silver coins, and the other owed him fifty. ⁴² Neither of them could pay him back, so he cancelled the debts of both. Which one, then, will love him more?" ⁴³ "I suppose," answered Simon, "that it would be the one who was forgiven more."

"You are right," said Jesus. ⁴⁴ Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your home, and you gave me no water for my feet, but she has washed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You did not welcome me with a kiss, but she has not stopped kissing my feet since I came. ⁴⁶ You provided no olive oil for my head, but she has covered my feet with perfume. ⁴⁷ I tell you, then, the great love she has shown proves that her many sins have been forgiven. But whoever has been forgiven little shows only a little love."

⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to the woman, "Your sins are forgiven." ⁴⁹ The others sitting at the table began to say to themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" ⁵⁰ But Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

- **There are three groups of people involved in the story – Simon, the Woman, and the other guests. What is your impression of them? How would you describe them?**
- **There is a look that we have all seen. The rolling of the eyes, the shaking of the head, the pursing of the lips. Have you ever seen this look? Have you ever worn this kind of look?**
- **What do you think of the story Jesus tells? (v40-42). How do we measure ourselves and how do we measure others? And How does this impact our attitudes?**
- **How can we become more aware of our debt to God and so become more aware of the magnitude of his forgiveness?**
- **How would your love grow if you consciously remembered all of the time how much you have been forgiven?**
- **Jesus says the woman's faith leads to forgiveness and so peace. How does being forgiven by Jesus lead to having peace now?**
- **The woman was prepared to fully identify as a follower of Jesus and show her love for Jesus in a slightly hostile environment. How can we do this in our everyday lives?**