**Simon the Pharisee**

**Aim: T**o remind the children to worry about their own behaviour, rather than other peoples!

**Occasion:** Ordinary 11

**Scripture:** Luke 7:36-50

**Game: (for the older children) What are you doing?
What to do:**Get the children to sit in a circle. Ask for two volunteers to stand in the middle of the circle. Get volunteer one to mime painting a fence. Get volunteer two to ask 'What are you doing?' Volunteer one then says something that they **are not** doing e.g. 'Walking the dog'. Volunteer two the does what volunteer one suggested.
Now, volunteer one asks 'What are you doing?' and volunteer two says something they **are not** doing.
This pattern continues until someone stuffs up or gets confused. They then sit down, and a new person has ago. The game finishes either when everyone has had a go, or time is up.

**Game: (for the younger children) helping hands**

**What to do:**Get the children into pairs. One person will be the 'hands' and the other will be the 'eyes'.
The person who is the 'hands', stands behind their partner and puts their arms under their partner's hands. The person who is the 'eyes' hides their own hands.
Now get the pairs to do different tasks that they have to work together to complete. E.g. peel a banana, draw a picture of a flower, dance with another pair etc

**Story: Simon the Pharisee (Luke 7:36 -50)**

Simon invited his friend Jesus to a party at his house. A woman from the town, who was not liked very much because she had done some bad things, heard that Jesus had been invited and she decided to go too.

She brought with her an expensive bottle of perfume and when she arrived, she quickly found Jesus and began to cry. Her tears fell on the feet of Jesus and washed them clean from dust, and with her hair, the woman dried his feet. Then, taking out the expensive perfume, she poured it over his feet until the fragrance filled the room.

Simon was watching the woman the whole time, and said to himself 'If this man really is a prophet, he should know what kind of woman is touching him! She is a sinner!'

Jesus turned and looked at Simon. Then he said to him, 'Come here Simon, I have a story for you.'

Simon went over to Jesus and listened to the following story.

'Two people were in debt to a moneylender. One of them owed him five hundred silver coins, and the other owed him fifty. 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 thought for a moment. 'I guess it would be the one who owed the most money and didn't have to pay it back.'

Jesus smiled 'You are right.'

Jesus then turned and looked at the woman. 'Have you noticed this woman, Simon? When I first arrived here you didn't give me anything to wash my feet with. 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 give me oil for my skin, but she poured expensive perfume on my feet.

And so 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.'

And then Jesus forgave the woman's sins.

**Talk:**Have you ever gone to a party that you weren't invited to? (pause) I know that I haven't. I would be too scared that they would tell me to leave and I would feel unwelcome.

But in today's story, there was a woman who did just turn up uninvited.

Was Simon, the man who's party it was upset that she came? (pause) What about Jesus, was he upset? (pause) Jesus and Simon reacted quite differently to the woman, didn't they? Simon didn't want here there because he thought she was a bad woman. But Jesus was happy she was there because she made him feel welcome, even though it wasn't her party and she wasn't welcome herself.

After Jesus told Simon the story about the moneylender, how do you think Simon felt? What was Jesus trying to tell him? (pause) I think Jesus was telling Simon this. That because Simon was so busy judging the woman for all the bad things she had done in the past, he had forgotten to be a good host to his guest in the present!!!!

What do you think that we can learn from today's story? (pause) Well, I think that I have learned that it's more important to make sure that we are doing the right thing, than it is to worry about what other people are doing.

**Questions:**

* Have you ever gone to a party you weren't invited to?
* How did Simon feel about the woman coming to the party?
* How did Jesus feel about the woman coming to the party?
* Who would you like to be in the story and why?
* Who do you think you are more like in the story and why?
* What have you learned from this story?

**Activity: Welcome door signs**

**What you need:**welcome door sign templates, glue stick, card, scissors and stuff to decorate!
**What to do:**

Give each child a copy of the template. Glue it to the piece of card.

Cut it out.

Decorate.

**Variations:**The children might like to draw a picture of things that make them feel welcome eg, someone saying hello, offering someone something to eat or drink, asking about how they are etc.

They might like to find bible verses that talk about welcoming people.

