

2. Mary Anoints Jesus (John 12:1-8)

“If I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other’s feet.” (John 13:14)



PLAN

Session Outline

1. Gather

Greeting
Puzzlers
Hospitality Audit
Transition to Explore

2. Explore

Sacred Conversations
Hear and See the Bible Story
Interact with the Bible Story
Say the Bible Verse
Transition to Respond

3. Respond

Extravagant Pudding
Hygiene Kits
Loving God,
Loving Neighbor
Transition to Bless

4. Bless

Inviting
Praising
Blessing
At Home with God

Supplies

Basic Supplies: Offering basket | Pencils | Markers | Construction paper | Hand-washing supplies | Napkins

Gather: TV/DVD player

Explore: TV/DVD player

Respond: Plastic spoons | Bowls | Instant pudding or pudding cups | Pudding toppings of choice | Sample-sized toiletries | Toothbrushes | Washcloths | Quart-sized plastic bags | Organization to donate to | Tablecloth | LED candle

Bless: Tablecloth | LED candle | TV/DVD player

Before You Teach

Today, we learn about an extravagant gesture of hospitality toward Jesus by his friend, Mary of Bethany. Six days before Passover, Jesus went to Lazarus’s house. Lazarus was Mary’s brother whom Jesus had raised from the dead. As Martha, Lazarus’s other sister, served the meal, Mary took a large amount of expensive perfume and anointed Jesus’ feet and then dried them with her hair. Judas, who was also at the dinner, complained, saying that it was wasteful and the perfume could have been sold to raise money for the poor. This is ironic because Judas was not only Jesus’ future betrayer but also a thief who stole money he had been entrusted to keep. Jesus chastised Judas, telling him to leave Mary alone because the perfume she used would be used for his burial anyway. Jesus also said that there would always be poor among them, but he would not always be there.

Mary’s anointing of Jesus’ feet not only foreshadows his death, but Jesus’ washing of the disciples’ feet. The perfume Mary used was made of pure nard, a fragrant ointment. Nard is made from the roots and stems of the spikenard plant. Nard was very expensive. In Biblical times, one pound of nard could cost as much as a laborer earned in 300 days of work. The Romans used nard to anoint people’s heads as a sign of honor or as a way of healing. Mary used it to honor Jesus as well.

This week, we will focus on hospitality. We will evaluate how well we welcome others in our community, and we will practice gestures of hospitality.

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GATHER

Greeting

Before class: Display either attendance chart (Class Kit—pp. 16–17 or 15 & 18) at eye level.

- Play “A Whole New Level of Love” (Adventure DVD), as you welcome each child.
- Show the children where to place their offerings on the worship table.
- Have the children mark the “Attendance Chart” by signing their first names on week #2.

SAY: Today, we are learning about a time when someone showed extravagant hospitality to Jesus.

A—Puzzlers (Activity Sheets)

Before class: Tear out the Session 2 Activity Sheets for each child.

- Give each child a copy of “Mary” (Activity Sheets—p. 5). Let them complete the puzzle.
- Allow them to work on the “Who Complained?” activity (Activity Sheets—p. 6).

SAY: Our Bible story for today reminds us to be welcoming to others.

OR

B—Hospitality Audit (Activity)

Before class: Gather a pencil for each child and photocopy “Hospitality Audit” (Leader Guide—p. 18) for each child.

SAY: Jesus’ friend Mary showed him great hospitality when he came to visit her brother Lazarus’s home. Let’s see how well we welcome visitors to our church.

- Give each child a pencil and a copy of “Hospitality Audit.”
- As a class, take a walk around your building and let the children look around and observe things that may help them fill in their audit sheets. Let them pause to write things down as you go along. Also allow some additional time for them to write down their thoughts when you return to the classroom, and let them know ahead of time that you will be doing this so that they don’t feel rushed to write things down while you are on your walk.
- Have a class discussion about what you observed and ideas for being a more welcoming community.

ASK: How can we do more to welcome others to our church community?

Transition to Explore

- Encourage children to bring a chair or to sit on the floor in a carpeted area.
- Invite children to form a circle on the floor.

TIP: Transitions are a helpful way for children to move easily from one activity to the next.

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EXPLORE

Sacred Conversations

- Encourage children to join and sit in the circle.
- Demonstrate a listening position for the children.
- Ask wondering questions.

ASK: I wonder:

- When has someone greeted you extravagantly, and what did they do?
 - When have you greeted someone extravagantly, and what did you do?
 - If you could be welcomed in any way that you would like, how would you choose to be welcomed?
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Hear and See the Bible Story

- Read the Bible story together (*CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible*—John 12:1-8).
- Watch the Adventure DVD Session 2.

SAY: Today, we’re exploring a story about a time when someone did something special for Jesus.

ASK: When have you wanted to do something special for someone?

Interact with the Bible Story

- Assign parts and act out “Mary Anoints Jesus” (Bible Story Sheets—Session 2).
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Say the Bible Verse

Before class: Display the “Unit 1 Bible Verse” poster (Class Kit—pp. 5 & 28).

- Tell the children the Bible verse: “If I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other’s feet” (John 13:14).
 - Have the children repeat the verse after you.
 - Then have the children pair up and pantomime washing each other’s feet while saying the verse. (They may keep their shoes on.)
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Transition to Respond

- Encourage children to put away their chairs and/or get back to their places.

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RESPOND

Extravagant Pudding (Snack)

Before class: Bowls, plastic spoons, napkins, hand-washing supplies, either instant pudding mix and necessary ingredients or premade pudding cups, pudding toppings of your choice.

SAY: Jesus’ friend Mary did something special for him. Let’s do something special for a friend in class.

- Place the toppings in bowls with spoons for serving. (Ideas include fruit, gummy bears, gram crackers, small cookies or crushed cookies, and whipped topping.) Have the children wash their hands and form pairs. Tell the children that they are going to prepare a snack for their partner.
- Give each child a bowl filled with the pre-prepared instant pudding or premade pudding from a cup. Tell the children that they must ask their partner if he or she would like each particular topping before adding it to their partner’s pudding (to ensure that everyone gets what they want). After each child in the pair has prepared a snack for their partner, they may eat the snack.

TIP: Check for allergies ahead of time.

OR

Hygiene Kits (Service)

Before class: Gather sample-sized toiletries (Ideas include soaps, shampoos, deodorants, and toothpastes, toothbrushes, and washcloths), quart-sized plastic bags, construction paper and magic markers. Locate a homeless shelter, women’s shelter, or other organization to donate to.

- Have the children form an assembly line in which each of them will place one of each item in one of the plastic bags.
- Then have the children use the construction paper and markers to make a note to place in each bag. The message on the note can be something as simple as, “Jesus Loves You.” Have them sign the notes from your church or class, not with their individual names.
- Have the children place one note in each bag, and seal it. Make arrangements to deliver the donations or have someone from the receiving organization pick them up.

Loving God, Loving Neighbor

Before class: Gather several perfumes.

- Allow the children to have time to smell the different perfumes and comment. Have a class discussion about the different scents and what Mary did for Jesus.

TIP: Check for allergies ahead of time.

Transition to Bless

- Ring a bell to announce the transition.
- Create a worship center on a small table with a tablecloth and an LED candle.

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BLESS

Inviting

Before class: Display “Unit 1 Bible Verse Signs” poster (Class Kit—p. 29) on a wall or bulletin board.

SAY: Today, we learned about how Mary anointed Jesus’ feet with perfume as a way of welcoming him. Let’s learn to sign a verse as a way to welcome those who cannot hear.

- Gather the children around the Bible Verse Signs poster. Have the children read the Bible verse.
 - Teach the children to sign the verse.
 - Have the children form pairs and practice signing the verse with their partner.
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Praising

Before class: Gather a TV/DVD player and the Adventure DVD.

SAY: Our Bible story today was about how a woman named Mary anointed Jesus’ feet. Let’s remember Mary’s gesture as we praise God with our feet through dancing.

- Play “Taking Love to a Whole New Level” on the Adventure DVD.
 - Let the children dance around the room to the music.
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Blessing

- Have the children form a circle around the worship center.
- Light the candle.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for teaching us how to welcome others in our community. Amen.

At Home with God

SAY: What was one thing that you learned about hospitality today? Can you share what you learned with your family?

- Send Bible Story Sheets—Session 2, and the Unit 1 Song Sheet home with each child.

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Hospitality Audit

A large, stylized graphic of a clipboard with a grey clip at the top. The clipboard has a thick black border and contains seven questions, each followed by two horizontal lines for writing.

How do we greet our visitors?

How do we let our visitors know what to expect during worship?

How do we help visitors find their way around our building?

How do we let our visitors know about other events happening in our church community?

What informational materials do we offer our visitors to help them get to know our church community?

How do we welcome new classmates to our Sunday school classroom?

How can we improve our hospitality as a church community?

