

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
Clay Jars
Extravagant Story Circle
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

Loving God,
Loving Neighbor
Extravagant Cupcakes
Mary Anoints Jesus
Transition to Bless

4. Bless

Inviting
Praising
Blessing
At Home with God

Supplies

Basic Supplies: Clear tape | Stickers
| Markers | Crayons | Pencils | Glue |
Construction paper | Scissors

Gather: Air-dry clay | Wax paper |
Video or audio-recording equipment
(optional)

Explore: No additional supplies needed

Respond: Mini cupcakes, muffins, or
brownies | Cupcake sprinkles or edible
decorations | Small paper plates |
Napkins | Decorative craft supplies such
as sequins, glitter, and stickers

Bless: No additional supplies needed

Before You Teach

The twelfth chapter of John's Gospel begins with Jesus having dinner at the home of Lazarus, Mary, and Martha in Bethany. Jesus has been here before. On a previous visit Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. This time, Jesus and his disciples stopped in Bethany on their way to Jerusalem. They were traveling there to celebrate Passover, as was customary for the Jews. Jesus knew the time of his death was drawing near.

While Jesus was in Bethany, Mary anointed Jesus' feet. This story is anticipatory of two upcoming events: Jesus washing the disciples' feet and Jesus' burial. Mary showed her love for Jesus by anointing his feet and wiping them with her hair. Later, Jesus showed his love for the disciples by washing their feet. Mary also anointed Jesus' feet with an extravagant amount of perfume. The type of perfume Mary used was a kind used to prepare bodies for burial.

One of Jesus' disciples, Judas Iscariot, objected to Mary's actions. The perfume Mary used was worth a year's wages — indeed an extravagant amount! Judas asked why the perfume was not sold instead, and the money given to the poor. While this sounds like a valid argument, we, the readers of the story, are told the true reason for Judas' objection. Judas acted as the treasurer of the group and would help himself to the money. If the perfume had been sold, Judas could have kept some of the revenue for himself. Jesus affirmed Mary's actions. Judas' actions were prompted by selfishness and greed. Mary, on the other hand, demonstrated a characteristic of discipleship by acting out of love for Jesus. Mary honored Jesus by anointing his feet.

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GATHER

Greeting

Before class: Display the Attendance Chart (Class Kit—pp. 15–18) at eye level. Put together the model of the zoo and the figures of Benjie, Cinnamon, and the baby elephant (Class Kit—p. 9).

- Play, “A Whole New Level of Love” (Annual Music CD or Adventure DVD and Leader Guide—p. 91) as you welcome each child.
 - Show the children where to place their offerings, and help each child mark the Attendance Chart with a sticker or permanent marker.
 - Place the Deep Blue Shores Map (Class Kit—p. 11) and the zoo and Benjie, Cinnamon, and baby elephant figures (Class Kit—p. 9) on a table or on the floor for the children to play with and explore. If available, add the Deep Blue Shores Maps, buildings, and figures from previous quarters.
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A—Clay Jars (Art)

SAY: In our Bible story today, someone brings Jesus a special gift in a clay jar. Let’s make our own clay jars.

- Give each child a hunk of air-dry clay on top of a piece of wax paper, and invite him or her to mold it to create a jar.
 - Place the clay jars on wax paper in a safe space to dry before sending the jars home.
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OR

B—Extravagant Story Circle (Storytelling)

- Have the children sit with you in a circle.

SAY: Today we are going to learn a new word, *extravagant*. *Extravagant* means “big, extra, over-the-top, and expensive.” Let’s play a fun storytelling game. We are going to tell an *extravagant* story. I will start by saying a phrase and then I will point to one of you to add to the story. That person will add to the story and then point to the next person. When it is your turn, if you aren’t ready or don’t want to share, you may point to the next person. Here we go! **SAY:** Once upon a time there was a small child who lived on a big mountain... .

- Point to a child on either side of you to continue the story. Continue storytelling around the circle as interest and time allow. When the group is ready to end, complete the story by saying, “The End.”

OPTION: *Audio or video record the story to share. Make sure to ask permission from the children and their parents or guardians before sharing.*

Transition to Explore

- Have the children help you clean up and then move to the Bible story circle. Encourage them to move in an *extravagant* way.

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EXPLORE

Sacred Conversations

SAY: During the season of Lent, which is the time our faith communities prepare for the season of Easter, we will be hearing stories about Jesus and his faith community. I wonder what we can learn from them.

ASK: I wonder:

- How many friends are here with us today? Who is missing?
 - How do you feel today?
 - What's one thing that happened in your community this week that you really liked?
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Hear and See the Bible Story

SAY: Today our Bible story is about an extravagant gift. *Extravagant* means “big, extra, over-the-top, and expensive.”

- Tell the children the story, “Mary Honors Jesus” (*Deep Blue Bible Storybook*—p. 424).
- Watch the Deep Blue Adventure for Session 2 (Adventure DVD) with the children.

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

Interact with the Bible Story

- Give each child a copy of “Mary Anoints Jesus” (Bible Story Sheets—Session 2).
- Read the story with the children, encouraging them to read the words in blue.

TIP: Printable “Word Cards” for the words in blue are available each quarter to download and print at www.deepbluekids.com/This-Sunday.

Say the Bible Verse

Before class: Post the Bible Verse Poster—Unit 1 (Class Kit—p. 3) on a wall or bulletin board.

- Point to the Bible Verse Poster. Say the Bible verse for the children, and then repeat it together.
 - Teach the children signs from American Sign Language for some of the words in the Bible verse (Leader Guide—p. 94 and www.deepbluekids.com/This-Sunday).
 - Watch the Unit 1 Bible Verse video (Adventure DVD) with the children.
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Transition to Respond

- Have the children move to the next activity. Encourage them to move in an *extravagant* way.

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RESPOND

Loving God, Loving Neighbor

Before class: Post "All Are Welcome" (Class Kit—p. 27) and "Meet Our Neighbors" (Class Kit—p. 13) on a wall or bulletin board.

- Play, "All Are Welcome" (Annual Music CD or Adventure DVD). Sing along and dance to the music.

SAY: In our Deep Blue Adventure video today, Asia and her friends were decorating for Jayden's birthday party. Asia's decorations were over-the-top! She loves Jayden and wanted to show him how much she cared by decorating extravagantly.

ASK: When has someone done something *extravagant* for you? How did it feel? Did you like it? Did it make you uncomfortable? How did you respond?

OPTION: *Have the children create thank-you cards for the people who did something extravagant for them.*

A—Extravagant Cupcakes (Activity Sheets)

Before class: Decide whether you will have your group create paper cupcakes, decorate edible mini cupcakes (or muffins or brownies), or do both options. Gather and organize your supplies for the chosen activity according to the instructions on Activity Sheets—Session 2. Always check for allergies and have the children wash their hands before and after activities involving food.

- Give each child a copy of Activity Sheets—Session 2.
- Encourage the children to create paper cupcakes, decorate edible mini cupcakes, or do both options according to the instructions.
- If the children have decorated edible mini cupcakes, invite them to eat one cupcake and take one to give to a friend.

OR

B—Mary Anoints Jesus (Art)

Before class: Make a copy of "Mary Anoints Jesus" (p. 18) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Mary Anoints Jesus" coloring page.
 - Invite the children to color the picture. Discuss the Bible story as they color.
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Transition to Bless

- Have the children help you clean up and then move to the Bible story circle. Encourage them to move in an *extravagant* way.

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BLESS

Inviting

Before class: Cut out the Walking with Jesus Mural Pieces (Class Kit—p. 19) and place them in an envelope or zip-top bag. Post the Walking with Jesus Mural (Class Kit—pp. 2 & 31) on a wall or bulletin board. Prepare one or two pictures of people in your church, family, or community to add to the mural as well.

- Gather the children around the mural. Invite a child to tape the image of Mary holding the jar of perfume (**C**) somewhere on the mural.

ASK: What do you remember about the Bible story we heard today? What do you think we can learn about community from this story?

SAY: In the coming weeks, we will be adding more pictures of people from the Bible who knew Jesus. Some of them knew Jesus before Easter, and some didn't know Jesus until after Easter. We know Jesus too! I wonder who you can think of who is "Walking with Jesus" like the people in our Bible stories.

- Tell the children about the pictures you prepared before class, and then tape them to the mural. Invite children who brought in their own pictures to tell about them and add them to the mural. Remind the children that they are invited to bring their own pictures of people who are "Walking with Jesus" to add to the mural next week.
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Praising

Before class: Display "Singing Together" (Class Kit—p. 25) on a wall or bulletin board.

- Sing together, "Thank You, God" (Class Kit—p. 25).

TIP: If time permits, invite the children to choose more songs to sing.

Blessing

- Invite the children to stand with you in a circle.
 - Turn to the child next to you and say, "Peace be with you." Have the child respond by saying, "And also with you" and then turn to the next child and say, "Peace be with you." Continue around the circle giving each child a chance to say both lines. Then conclude by saying, "Amen."
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At Home with God

ASK: What's one thing about our time today that you can tell your family?

- Give each child a copy of Bible Story Sheets—Session 2. Look at "Family Faith Activities" together.

ASK: Which of these activities are you most excited to try this week?

- Send home the Bible Story Sheets—Session 2 with each child.

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Coloring Page

