



UNIT 26 | SESSION 1

JESUS WAS ANOINTED

MATTHEW 26; MARK 14; JOHN 12

CHRIST CONNECTION

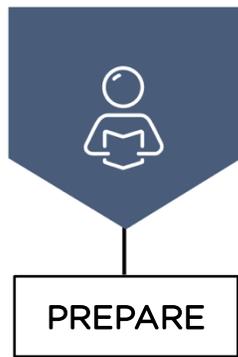
Jesus deserves to be worshiped. He died to rescue people from sin.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

How is Jesus the perfect Priest? **Jesus gave His life for us.**

MEMORY VERSE

Jesus lived a perfect life. **Hebrews 4:15**



LEADER BIBLE STUDY

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and John all recounted Christ's anointing in the last days before Passover. As Christ, His disciples, and friends all gathered to remember what God had done for His people so long ago, Mary anointed Jesus. We continue to celebrate the legacy of her worshipful act, just as Jesus proclaimed we would.

What was the significance of Mary's extravagant offering? Why did Christ declare that she would always be remembered for the affection she displayed for her Lord?

While Judas' eyes were blinded by his own greed, Mary's hands were guided by devotion to Christ alone. Though it seemed her offering of such precious perfume was a waste of resources, her reverence was not lost on Jesus. He deemed the costliness of her worship to be noble and exemplary. A year's worth of oil was worth less to her than this opportunity to worship Him there in His presence. She found herself unwilling to waste such an occasion to showcase His worth before all who were assembled in Simon the Leper's home.

To Jesus, it did not matter where the cost of the oil went, so much as the fact that she offered it up to Him in worship. So often, those on the outside wish to find the worth of our worship through a worldly lens. However, Christ is more interested in the obedience of our hearts. The joy in our giving is of greater value than any price tag it may bear.

Mary's choice to anoint the Lord with this costly oil became preparation for His burial; her sacrificial choice to honor Him with all she had was not put to waste. In fact, it helped establish her legacy in Scripture and even brought Christ one step closer to fulfilling the Old Testament prophecy.

Explain to children that genuine worship, even at its costliest, is never wasted because He is worth more than all the treasures of the world. Mary's opportunity to demonstrate Christ's value before the others was what set her apart. How can we lead our preschoolers toward lives of genuine devotion to Christ?

Terms to Know

Anoint: procedure of rubbing or smearing a person or thing, usually with oil, for the purpose of healing, setting apart, or embalming. Jesus is God's Anointed One, the Savior (Acts 10:38).



OPENING & ACTIVITIES

WELCOME

Play music in the background as you greet children coming into the classroom. Help them transition in and feel welcome as they play games and interact with other children.

ACTIVITY — OPTION 1

Sensory Bottles

- Get out the sensory bottles provided in your classroom's bin.
- Set them on a table and gather children around to play and experiment with them. Encourage children to be gentle with the bottles and share with friends.

Say: "Does the water and the oil inside each bottle mix together or do they separate out again? In the Bible, we read about a time when Mary, one of Jesus' friends, poured oil on Jesus' head and on His feet. She did this to worship Jesus. Jesus' friends told Mary that she should have sold the oil and used the money to help people who are poor. But Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She has done a very good thing for Me.'"

ACTIVITY — OPTION 2

Build a House

- Encourage children to work together to build a house with the wooden blocks in your classroom.
- As they build, ask them to tell you about their structure. To continue the conversation, review the Bible story.

Say: "Jesus went to a friend's house for a meal. He was sitting at the table when Mary came to Him. Mary broke open a jar of expensive oil and poured it on Jesus' head and feet. Jesus' friends told Mary that she should have sold the oil and used the money to help people who are poor. But Jesus said, 'She has done a very good thing for Me.' Jesus knew He was going away soon. He knew He was going to die. By pouring oil on Jesus, Mary got Jesus' body ready to be buried."



OPENING & ACTIVITIES

CRAFT

Trace Feet

- Invite each child to stand on a piece of paper while you trace around their shoes with a marker, like in the image below. Write, "Jesus deserved to be worshiped" on children's papers.
- Have children to color and decorate the outlines of their feet using crayons or markers. As they work, talk about the Bible story.

Say: "We traced around your feet and then you decorated your paper. In our Bible story, Mary poured oil on Jesus' head and feet. Why do you think she poured the oil on Jesus? Mary loved Jesus very much. She knew Jesus is God's Son and wanted to do a good thing for Him, and He was happy with Mary's choice. Jesus is most important, and He deserves to be worshiped. Jesus died to rescue people from sin, was buried for three days, and then rose from the dead."





BIBLE TIME

PREPARE

Open your bible to **Matthew 26, Mark 14, or John 12** and tell the following story.

THE STORY

JESUS WAS ANOINTED

Every year, the Jewish people celebrated a holiday called Passover. They gathered together to remember that when God's people were slaves in Egypt, God rescued His people.

A few days before the Passover feast began, Jesus went to the town of Bethany. Jesus' friend Lazarus lived in Bethany. Lazarus' sisters, Mary and Martha, lived there too.

Jesus went to a friend's house for a meal. Jesus was relaxing at the table when Mary came to Him. She had a jar, and inside the jar was some very expensive oil. The oil smelled good, like a perfume. Mary broke open the jar and poured the oil on Jesus' head and feet.

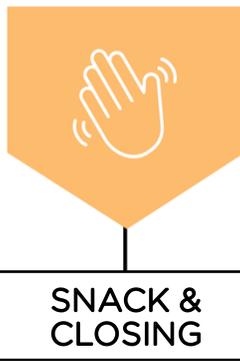
Jesus' friends were at the house, and they were upset! They thought Mary had done a silly thing. The oil was worth a lot of money. One of Jesus' friends said, "She could have sold the oil and used the money to help people who are poor!" Jesus' friends told Mary that she had done the wrong thing, but Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She has done a very good thing for Me."

Then Jesus said, "You will always have people around you who are poor, but you will not always have Me." Jesus was going away soon. He knew He was going to die. By pouring oil on Jesus, Mary got Jesus' body ready to be buried.

Jesus said that many people would hear about the good thing Mary had done. He said, "Wherever the good news about Me is told in the world, people will hear about this woman."

CHRIST CONNECTION

Mary did the right thing by pouring oil on Jesus. Jesus is most important, and He deserves to be worshiped. He died to rescue people from sin.



SNACK TIME

Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show children the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. What was your favorite part of today's Bible story?
2. What did you learn about God in today's Bible story?
3. In the story today, how did Mary worship Jesus?
4. How is Jesus the perfect Priest? **Jesus gave His life for us.**

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Pick up toys and games from around the room and put them away. After the room is cleaned up, set out markers or crayons and let children work on today's Bible Story Coloring Page or Activity Page until their parents arrive.

You can also choose a book to read to the children as they work or for those who don't want to work. Please make the effort to have the children quietly engaged in the last few minutes of the service. When parents arrive to pick up their child, share about something their child enjoyed doing or did well today.

BEFORE YOU GO...

Please clean up by doing the following:

1. Spray down toys with disinfectant
2. Spot sweep if needed
3. Return toys to closet, close door
4. Throw away any trash left on counters and in room
5. Return tan storage cubes to **Room 108**

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!