



UNIT 26 | SESSION 1

JESUS WAS ANOINTED

MATTHEW 26; MARK 14; JOHN 12

CHRIST CONNECTION

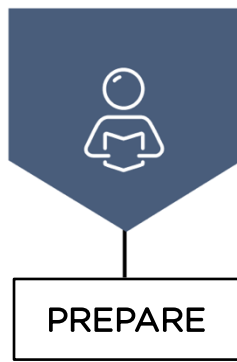
Anointing Jesus with oil showed He is more valuable than anything.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

How is Jesus the perfect Priest? Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for sin, and He speaks to God the Father for us today.

MEMORY VERSE

Hebrew 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 kids 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 kids 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

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group.

ACTIVITY PAGES

Invite kids to work on their coloring or activity pages before heading to Large Group.

- K12 has the “How Can You Worship God?” activity page.
- 345 has the “Complete the Puzzle” activity page.

Connect the Dots: To help prepare kids for the Bible story in Large Group, ask them something like, “What is something you own that is very special to you? Why is it special? Would you ever give it away? Why or why not?”

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

- It's a new unit, so it's time for a new memory verse! Introduce the verse to the kids and teach them the motions to help them memorize it. **(See motion video.)**
- Say the verse out loud while doing the motions 3-5 times with the entire class. Remind them that they can earn Bible Bucks at the end of the month by memorizing this verse!



AFTER LARGE GROUP

ACTIVITY

Large Group Review

- Review the lesson we heard in Large Group by playing Tic-Tac-Toe Review! See the instructions in your binder.

CRAFT

Oil and Water Sensory Bags

- Using the provided materials, mix a few drops of food coloring with water in the cups.
- Pour the water and oil into each bag. Be sure to only fill the bags 1/3 of the way — too much liquid will make it harder to seal.
- Remove as much air as you can and tightly seal the bags. Once sealed, use the duct tape to further seal and secure all sides of the bags so nothing leaks. See the example below.

Connect the Dots: To help kids connect the Bible story with the craft, you can say something like, “Mary used very expensive oil to anoint Jesus. She knew that this was not a waste of something so precious because Jesus is worth so much more!”





AFTER LARGE GROUP

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Distribute Bibles to each kid who needs one and have everyone open them to **Matthew 26**, **Mark 14**, or **John 12**. Then, read and review the Bible story below.

JESUS WAS ANOINTED

The time was coming to celebrate the Passover. Every year, the Jewish people gathered together to remember a special event that happened long ago. When God's people were slaves in Egypt, God did great things to rescue His people. Pharaoh saw God's power and authority, and he let God's people go. God had used Moses to lead His people out of Egypt to the promised land. God did not want the people to forget that time, so every year, the Jews had a feast. Many Jews traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate.

Six days before the Passover feast began, Jesus went to the town of Bethany. Bethany was near Jerusalem, and Jesus' friend Lazarus lived there with his sisters, Mary and Martha.

Jesus and His disciples went to Simon's house for a meal. Jesus was reclining at the table when Lazarus' sister Mary came to Him. She had a jar of very expensive oil. The oil smelled good, like a perfume. Mary broke open the jar and poured the oil on Jesus' head and feet.

Some of Jesus' disciples were very upset! They thought Mary had wasted the expensive oil by pouring it on Jesus. The oil was worth 300 denarii—about a year's pay. One of the disciples, Judas Iscariot (iss KAR ih aht) (who was about to betray Him), said, "She could have sold the oil for a lot of money, and then she could have given the money to the poor!" Judas did not say this because he cared about the poor; he said it because he loved money. In fact, he was a thief.

They told Mary that she had done the wrong thing, but Jesus spoke up. "Leave her alone," He said. "She has done a very good thing for Me."

Then Jesus explained, "You will always have people around you who are poor, but you will not always have Me. Mary has poured oil on My body to get it ready for burial."

Jesus said that wherever the gospel was told in the whole world, people would also hear about Mary and what she had done.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Pouring the expensive oil on Jesus was not a waste; it was worship. By allowing Mary to anoint Him, **Jesus showed that He is more valuable than anything.** Jesus knew He would soon die, be buried, and rise from the dead on the third day to rescue sinners.



AFTER LARGE GROUP

DISCUSS THE BIBLE STORY

After reading the Bible story, ask the following questions and lead the group to discuss.

- What if we don't have anything expensive to give to God? Do we have to give Him things? Do our gifts or sacrifices to God save us? Explain why not.
- What are some ways you can worship God?
- Did Judas really care about the poor? Why not? How can we love things more than God?
- Mary's oil prepared Jesus for burial. Did Jesus stay buried in the tomb? Why not?

HAVE EXTRA TIME?

Let's work on the Books of the Bible! Either on the tv in your classroom or in the Large Group room, show the kids the Books of the Bible video. (If using the Large Group room, ask the AV lead or Taylor for assistance.)

After the video, begin to gauge where your class is on knowing all the books of the Bible. Using index cards, each with a different book of the Bible written on it, challenge them to put the books in order.

BEFORE YOU GO...

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another leader if they have questions. Then pray, thanking God for Jesus' power over sin and death. If time allows, let kids keep working on their coloring or activity pages.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!