

## Lesson C3.6 - We Love Jesus



### Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

#### For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

#### Quick Facts for the Teacher

##### Lesson Summary: John 12:1-11

► Bible Characters: Jesus, Mary, Judas, disciples  
Jesus and his disciples visited Martha, Mary and Lazarus. While there, Mary anointed Jesus' feet with nard and wiped it off with her hair. Judas angrily said that she should have sold the ointment and not wasted it on Jesus. But Jesus replied that Mary could use the nard on the day of his burial.

##### Brief Bible Background

- Today's Lesson is from the New Testament
- Scripture Section: Arrest

The story of Judas' betrayal shows a striking contrast between the power grabs of Judas (and later the chief priests, too) and the strong but peaceful response of Jesus, himself. Jesus knew who he was, and he could remain calm because he trusted in God and his ultimate plan of salvation.

##### For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

*Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.*

#### a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

#### b. Opening Prayer Song

The words to this song are sung to the tune, "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes."

Optional motions: Lift hands up on "Lord," point to ears on "hear," fold hands on "pray."

Stretch hands outwards on "all who need your help today."

*Lord, hear us as we pray, as we pray!*

*Lord, hear us as we pray, as we pray!*

*Bless all who need your help today!*

*Lord, hear us as we pray, as we pray!*

#### c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

When we love someone, like a parent or grandparent for example, what are some things we do to show that? (*Draw a picture for them, offer to help with a chore, speak kindly to them, give a hug, etc.*) **We love Jesus**, too. He always showed great kindness to children.

• What are some ways we show that **we love Jesus**? (*Call on volunteers. Ideas include reading Bible stories, praying to him, telling others about him, etc.*)

In today's Bible story, Mary showed in her own way that she loved Jesus, but Judas showed that he did not. What happened? Let's hear the story and find out!

#### d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

### e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading. Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.



#### Picture 1

*Tell the children:* Six days before Passover (an important Jewish feast), the disciples traveled with Jesus to a place called Bethany, where some friends lived.

*Read the caption:* One day, Jesus and his disciples went to visit Martha, Mary and Lazarus. After dinner, Mary wanted to do something nice.

- Which person in the picture is Jesus? [The one with the red sash] Who is the woman in blue? [Jesus' friend, Mary]
- What do you think Mary is holding in her hands? [It's a jar of nard, an expensive ointment that people used in Bible times for many different purposes.]

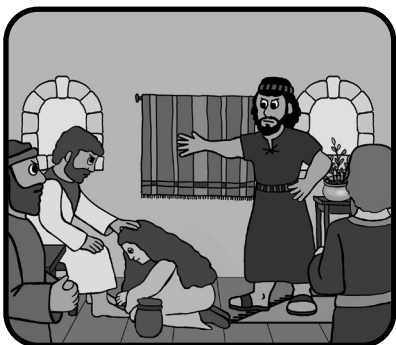


#### Picture 2

*Tell the children:* Martha had made a special dinner for Jesus and the disciples. Lazarus had sat with them at the table. How would Mary welcome Jesus?

*Read the caption:* She took a jar of ointment and rubbed some on Jesus' feet. It smelled good and clean. She used her long hair to wipe it off.

- Why might Mary have done this? [In Bible times, people anointed others as a sign of honor. Wiping the ointment with her hair showed Mary's devotion.]
- Do you think this would have surprised the disciples? [Probably. Nard was expensive, and hair was seen as a woman's glory. This was a very humble act.]



#### Picture 3

*Tell the children:* One disciple, who kept the disciples' money purse, didn't like what Mary did. He decided to scold her in front of everyone.

*Read the caption:* Judas was mad that Mary was wasting the ointment on Jesus. He said it was expensive and she should sell it instead.

- How do you think Mary felt when Judas scolded her? [Hurt, upset, angry, etc.]
- How do you think Jesus felt? [Jesus knew he would die soon, and he saw what Mary was doing as a very kind last gift to him. He probably felt touched by her devotion and also aware of Judas' lack of it.]



#### Picture 4

*Tell the children:* Judas announced that Mary should give the money from the nard to the poor. But Jesus knew that Judas didn't really care about the poor.

*Read the caption:* Jesus said, "Leave Mary alone. She can use this ointment on the day of my burial." For Jesus knew he would soon die.

- Look at Judas' face in this picture. How is he responding to Jesus? [Judas is still mad. He thinks he is right.]
- Do you think Judas changed his mind about the nard? [No, Judas went on to betray Jesus soon after this. He sold information about Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.]

**f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)**

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

*For supper Jesus went to see  
his three good friends in Bethany.  
While Lazarus sat down to eat,  
his sister, Martha, kept things neat.*

*Then Mary came into the room  
with costly nard, a sweet perfume.  
She gave her Lord this gift most rare,  
and wiped his feet with her long hair!*

*Then Judas yelled, "Why waste that stuff  
when some poor folk don't have enough?"  
But Jesus said, "Leave her alone;  
for in a while I'll soon be gone."*

**g. Young Children's Activity (optional)**

Simple in-class activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class.

**Game: "Give Me the Money"****Materials Needed:**

Bag filled with coins, music

**Instructions:**

Invite kids to sit in a circle on the floor. This game will be played somewhat like "Hot Potato" but with a twist. Choose a song to play on your phone or CD player. If using your phone, try to find a song about greed or money. Have kids start passing the bag around the circle. Stop the music randomly. Whoever is holding the bag must take out one coin and lay it on the ground in front of him or herself. Continue playing music; each time it stops, the person holding the bag will remove a coin and lay it on the ground. Do this until the bag of money is empty. Invite everyone to count the number of coins they have. Whoever has the most, "wins." However, that person now has to answer two questions: "What does it feel like to have the most money of anyone here?" and "What are some good things we can do with our money?"

*In today's story, Mary spent her money on a gift for Jesus to show her devotion. Judas judged her for this, but really wanted to hoard the money for himself. Money in and of itself is not a bad thing; it's how we use it and where we invest it that matters most.*

**h. Song (optional)**

This classic song is sung to the tune, "Jesus Loves Me."

**The Apostles Song**

**Jesus called them one by one,  
Peter, Andrew, James and John.  
Next came Phillip, Thomas too,  
Matthew and Bartholomew.**

*Refrain:*

**Yes, Jesus called them, Yes, Jesus called them,  
Yes, Jesus called them,  
and they all followed Him.**

*Verse 2:*

**James the one they called the less.  
Simon also Thaddaeus,  
Twelve Apostles Judas made,  
Jesus was by him betrayed. [Refrain]**

**i. Story Review: Then What Happened?**

*Then What Happened* is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

► **Start: Jesus and his disciples visited Martha, Mary and Lazarus. What happened next?**

*If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.*

**j. Closing Prayer**

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents).

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

*Heavenly Father, God above,*

*We're grateful for your faithful love.*

*Bless everyone who need your care,*

*Help hurting people everywhere.*

*Be with us now, in all we do,*

*So we may serve and live for you. Amen.*