



LESSON PLAN

Scripture Texts:

John 12:1-11

Psalms 45:6-15

Session Theme:

Generosity

a. Welcome to Class

Teachers should arrive in the classroom well in advance of class. Welcome students as they enter, and inquire about their week. Pass out name tags and record attendance on a classroom chart.

b. Icebreaker: "Costly Lotion"

Bring a small bottle of lotion, perfume, or even shampoo to class with you. Ask kids what they would use this for if they had something like it at home. (Answers might include, moisturizing skin, spraying in the air to make a good smell, washing hair, etc.) Next, tell kids to imagine that this particular bottle cost \$1,000. Ask them if that might change what they would do with it. Why or why not?

In today's Bible story, a woman had a very expensive jar of good-smelling ointment. How did she decide to use it? What happened next? Let's begin our lesson and find out!

c. Opening Prayer

Lord God, you have given us everything we have--our families, our homes, our very lives. May we be thankful for these things, and share what we have with others. Help us to use all we have for your glory. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

d. SEED Video or Song (Optional)

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This time may also include an opening song or two, using a commercial Sunday School music CD.

Song suggestions for this lesson:

- "Praise My Soul the King of Heaven" (hymn)
- "Oh How I Love Jesus" (children's song)

e. Brief Bible Background

Read together the introduction to the lessons for the day, and briefly summarize the context and setting:

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

After the Last Supper, Jesus brought his disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. While he was there, Judas showed up with guards from the temple who wanted to arrest Jesus. Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss and handed him over to be put on trial.

f. Communicate the Bible Story

Always keep in mind that the main purpose of Sunday School is to put people in contact with Bible stories. Use a version that is appropriate to the age level:

Children: Read aloud the Bible Story and Rhyme

Youth/Adults: Read aloud Scripture from the Bible

g. Complete the Worksheet(s)

Continue with the handout sheets appropriate to the age level of the students in class:

Pre-Readers: Coloring Page and Activity

Elementary: Children's Pages (Worksheet and Drama)

Youth: Bible Study (Maps, Timelines, and Questions)

Adults: Bible Study (Large or Small Group Discussion)

h. Craft and Activity Time

If there is time after covering the Bible story, the class may move to craft and activity time, described on the following page. (Do not let the activity time supersede the actual time spent on the Scripture lesson.)

i. Summarize and Review

Before ending class, briefly summarize the day's lesson one last time. Use the Bible Rhyme as a short review, or simply ask questions to help the students recall the events of the story.

Youth/Adult: Discuss "Reflection for the Week Ahead"

j. Closing Prayer

Close the session in prayer before dismissal:

Pre-Readers: Teacher leads a simple prayer

Children: Practice a prayer from memory (e.g., the Lord's Prayer, Luther's Morning Prayer, etc.)

Youth/Adult: Use the ADTRC Prayer format



Bible Study Leader's Guide

The following is a discussion and answer guide for the Youth and Adult Bible Study sheets. For all leaders, it can serve to provide some background on the Bible lesson.

Discuss: John 12:1-11

1. From what you read in this lesson from John, what do you think *motivated* the good deed Mary did for Jesus? Have you ever had a gift that you really *wanted* to give someone? What motivated you?

Mary was motivated by her great love for Jesus. She had already loved Jesus, but now he had raised her brother from the grave, and she wanted to do something for him to show how grateful she was to have her brother back. Consider the gifts you wanted to give and the motivation for wanting to give them. (The other gospels also show that she was grateful for Jesus' forgiveness previously shown to her.)

2. What inside information are we given about Judas in these verses? How do his actions here foreshadow what he would later do in Jerusalem?

In this passage we learn that Judas was more interested in money than he was with serving the poor or following Jesus. His desire for money had led him to steal from Jesus and his fellow disciples. This lets us know that if he is willing to steal from Jesus, he is also willing to betray Jesus for money.

3. Despite his greedy motives, do you think Judas had a legitimate point? Was this a waste? Or is Jesus saying here that it is not important to care for the poor? What is Jesus saying?

In ordinary circumstances, it would have been a waste of the perfume. Judas may have a legitimate point if Jesus was just some ordinary person at an ordinary dinner. But Jesus was unique, and it was no ordinary circumstance. Jesus is not saying that it is unimportant to care for the poor, but it is important that his disciples recognize not only who he is, but why he came and what is about to happen to him. They will always be able to care for the poor, but this service to God in the flesh can only be done now.

4. Think about that phrase, "You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me" (v. 8). In our lives, how do we show our love to Jesus? Compare with Matthew 25:44-45.

We show our love for Jesus when we show love to others. In Matthew 25:44-45 Jesus says it plainly.

(If we do not love others, then how can we really say that we love Jesus?) Jesus reminds us that we always have the opportunity to do good for others. This is how we show love in physical and practical ways.

5. In verse 7, Jesus says Mary had this oil "for the day of my burial." How does Mary's anointing of Jesus in this story point us to the true mission of the Messiah (the Anointed One)?

While Jesus was anointed by God for the mission of saving his people, this physical anointing of his body with ointment which would normally be poured over a corpse to cover the smell of decay, is a sign that he must die in order to complete the mission to which his Father had anointed him.

6. How is the dinner in Bethany (vv. 1-8) contrasted with the gathering of the chief priests in Jerusalem (vv. 9-11)? What feelings did the raising of Lazarus prompt in the religious authorities? What did they plan to do in response?

The dinner in Bethany was a celebration of the restored life of Lazarus, while the chief priests gathered to plan a death, or possibly two. The raising of Lazarus prompted feeling of jealousy in the priests, since people were leaving them and following Jesus. In response to this they planned to kill both Jesus and Lazarus.

7. Read Psalm 45:6-15. In biblical days, why would anointing with oil and perfumes be associated with kingship and royalty? How does this Bible passage foreshadow the gifts the wise men gave baby Jesus?

Oil was used to indicate blessing and wealth. It was also used to carry the fragrance of the spices and make it stick to the one who was anointed. Because the perfumes were expensive, it was a sign of the king's power and wealth that he was anointed so freely. This anointing foreshadows the gifts of the wise men because two of the gifts they brought were fragrant spices used for anointing kings: frankincense and myrrh.

8. Psalm 45:15 says that the princess will "enter the palace of the king" with joy and gladness. How does this foreshadow our eternal future with Jesus?

Jesus promises his people that he will raise them to new life and bring them into his presence for eternity to come. The Book of Revelation says that God will come down to dwell with us.

"By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations" (Rev. 21:24-26).

Classroom Craft and Activity Page

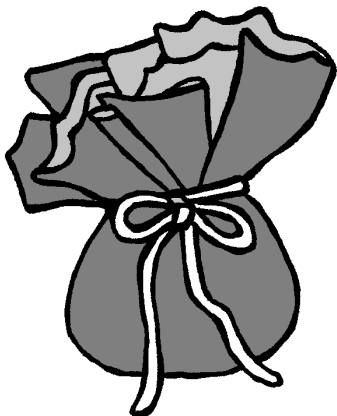
Listed below are in-class activities and craft projects related to the theme for the day. Choose one of the following based on the age and capabilities of the students. (Never let the activity or craft time take precedence over the biblical story.)

Activity 1: "Scented Sachet" Craft

(for older children)

Materials Needed:

- Two kinds of essential oils (peppermint, orange, or lavender work well and tend to be inexpensive)
- 7" x 7" square of fabric
- Jute, yarn, or ribbon
- A bag of cotton balls
- Scissors
- Thin elastic bands



Instructions:

Before class: Cut fabric into squares, about 7 x 7" in size (a little larger or smaller is fine). You will want 2 fabric squares per person if everyone is making two sachets.

When ready to make the craft: Give each person two squares of fabric and 10 cotton balls

Invite kids to lay a square of fabric on the table in front of them. Put 5 cotton balls in the center of the fabric, spread apart.

Next, place a drop of one kind of essential oil on each cotton ball. (You may need to help younger kids with this step as it can be easy for too much to come out otherwise.)

Have kids bunch the cotton balls up in the middle. Gather the fabric up and around the cotton and gather together in the middle. Secure around the middle with an elastic band, so everything is held in place.

Cut a 6-7" piece of jute, yarn, or ribbon for each kid, and let them wrap it around the elastic several times and tie it.

Repeat the process to make a second sachet. This time, invite kids to choose a different scent. When finished, kids can give one sachet to a family member and keep one for themselves! Store sachets in backpacks, drawers, or closets.

Mary rubbed nard on Jesus' feet, which filled the room with a good scent. These sachets can remind you of today's story, and of Mary's loving care for the Savior.

Activity 2: "Give Me the Money" Game

(for all children)

Materials Needed:

- Bag or small box filled with about 20 or so pennies or other coins
- Music (either from CD or from your phone)



Instructions:

Invite kids to sit in a circle on the floor.

Choose a song to play on your phone or CD player. If using your phone, try to find a song about greed or money. ("Said Judas to Mary" is a slow hymn about today's story. If you prefer a fast paced, secular song, "Money, Money, Money" by ABBA could also work.)

Give the bag to someone in the circle, and invite kids to 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, with kids passing the bag of money around. Each time the music suddenly 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?"
- "What are some good things we can do with our money?"

In today's story, Mary spent her money on a gift for Jesus, showing how much she treasured him. Judas, while judging her for this, actually 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.

Worksheet Answer Key

Shown below are the answers and solution to the children's worksheet for this week's lesson:

THE

8 9 1

POOR

10 4 4 6

Coded Message

John 12:8

YOU

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7 13 15 7 12 11

HAVE

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YOU,

12 4 14

BUT

16 14 8

YOU

12 4 14

DO

17 4

NOT

18 4 8

ALWAYS

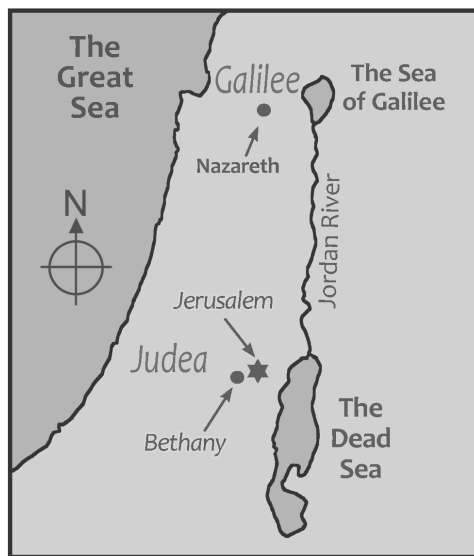
7 13 15 7 12 11

HAVE

9 7 5 1

ME

3 1



Map and Answers:

1. What was the name of the region where the towns of Bethany and Jerusalem were located? **Judea**
2. Which of the three seas shown in blue on the map was the smallest? **Sea of Galilee**
3. Which of these three towns — Bethany, Jerusalem, or Nazareth — was the farthest north? **Nazareth**
4. In which direction does the Jordan river flow? **North to South**

Reflection for the Week Ahead

Something interesting about today's story is that Mary gave the best that she had to Jesus.

She didn't use an old, cheap perfume to anoint his feet, but chose pure nard, which would have been very expensive. This bothered Judas, and he criticized Mary for it. He saw many "better" ways to spend that money--ways that would benefit him.



When we think of how much we have received from God, it would seem easy to give back. Yet often, we don't do this either.

We spend our money and time on things that we want for ourselves or for our families. This is natural and understandable, but not very generous.

Mary was so grateful for the difference Jesus had made in her life that she gave him her very best. What would it mean for us to do the same?

What are some ways that we can give back to God, not only in money, but in time and talents as well?

The Practice of Prayer

On the lines below, confess to God your own weaknesses and failings. Ask for his forgiveness. Pray that he would give you his Spirit, so that you could turn away from sin and cling to him in faith.

Practice using the ADTRC Prayer Form: Address, Description, Thanks, Request, Conclusion.

A: _____

D: _____

T: _____

R: _____

C: _____