



Family Conversation Guide

(August 22, 2021)

In this week's passage from the Book of John, Jesus came to Bethany, and there was a celebration at the home of Lazarus, Mary, and Martha.

READ AND DISCUSS

Ask family members to find [John 12:1-11](#) in their Bibles. Give them pens and paper so that they can take notes as they listen to the sermon.

1. **Who did Jesus visit in Bethany?** (*Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha*)
2. **What were they celebrating?** (**Verse 2**- *they were celebrating Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead*)
3. Read **verse 3**. **What did Mary do to show her love and devotion to Jesus?** (*She poured very expensive oil over His feet and washed His feet with her hair*)
4. **According to John Kasay, why was this surprising in those times to the people in the room?** (*She was acting as a servant would, she had let her hair down which was not what Jewish women would do, she was using expensive perfume*)
5. In **verse 3**, it says that the room was filled with fragrance. The last time the family had smelled such a fragrance was after Lazarus had died when they prepared his body. It was very rare that such expensive oil was used, and only for very special occasions (weddings, funerals, coronations). Fragrances remind us of special times in our lives. **Can you think of certain smells that remind**

you of special times in your life?

6. Read **Matthew 26:3-5**. The gospel of Matthew was written to Jewish Christians, and this passage described the same occasion. **What was different in the description of what Mary did?** (*Mary anointed Jesus' head, not His feet*) Most likely, both happened but each writer described it differently.
7. In **1 Kings Chapter 1**, it describes anointing the future king with oil. **When Jesus was anointed, He was being prepared for what was going to happen, when He would be ready to take His rightful place as priest, prophet, and king as the scriptures had predicted.** Everyone in the room understood this was fulfilling the scripture, that Jesus was preparing to be king.
8. **Who was the one person who did not understand?** (*Read verses 4 and 5*) **Why did Judas say this was wrong?** (*He said the money should have been used to feed the poor*)
9. **In verse 6, why was Judas really upset?** (*Because he regularly stole money from the money bag and he didn't want it to be used. He wanted it for himself.*)
10. **What does Jesus say to Judas?** (*Read verses 7 and 8*)
11. **In verse 9, who did the huge crowd of people come to see?** (*Jesus and also Lazarus, raised from the dead by Jesus*)
12. **Because of this, who did the chief priests plan to put to death along with Jesus? Why was Lazarus a problem?** (*Because of what happened to Lazarus, many were going away from the chief priests and believing in Jesus*)
13. Mary showed her love for Jesus by anointing His head and feet and washing them with her hair. Jesus loved Mary and accepted her praise and adoration for Him. **How can we show our love for Jesus?**

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Watch this video together: “Mary Pours Perfume on Jesus” by LifeKids

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cl-VSPLdqXk>

Discuss:

- How did Mary show her love for Jesus?
- What are some ways you can show your love for Jesus? (Let each family member respond)
- What is a way we can all work together to show our love for Jesus? (Think of ways your family can serve together and worship Jesus together)

PRAYER

“Dear Jesus, Mary showed her love for You and we want to show You how much we love You, too. Help us to know how we can do things that would please You and honor You! In Jesus’ name, Amen.”