



Week 1 - Mary of Bethany: Devotion Beyond Measure

Bible Story: John 12:1-8

Additional Scripture: Matthew 26:6-13, Mark 14:3-9

March Memory Verse: John 11:25-26 Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.”

Today's Point: We can show our love for Jesus in many ways, big or small.

Main Idea: Through Mary's act of pouring costly perfume on Jesus, children learn about deep devotion and the significance of selfless love in knowing Him.

Bible Lesson Video: [▶ God's Story: Jesus Gets Anointed](#)

March Worship Songs:

[▶ Yancy & Little Praise Party - It's A Happy Day- \[OFFICIAL MUSIC VID...](#)

[▶ "He Rose" with Actions](#)

Schedule:

Warm Up Question (3 min.):

How would you feel if someone washed your feet with their hair?

Review Classroom Rules (3 min.)

Review giving and collect offerings (2 min.)

Review point and Key verse: (5 min.)

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Memory Verse: John 11:25-26 Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying."

Play Songs (6 Min.)

Introduction & Group Game: Perfume Pass (6 min.)

TEACHER: "Good morning, everyone! How's everyone feeling today? I'm so glad you're here with us. This week, we're going to discover the deep devotion of Mary of Bethany and what her act of love towards Jesus can teach us. But before we jump into that, let's get moving with a fun group game!"

Supplies Needed: A small, sealed bottle of water (or any light object that can be easily passed), background music you can pause.

Directions:

1. Have the children sit in a circle.
2. Hand the bottle of water to one child. This represents the 'costly perfume' Mary used on Jesus.
3. Explain that when the music starts, they will pass the bottle to the person on their right.
4. **When the music stops, the child holding the bottle will share one way they can show love and devotion to someone this week.**
5. The game continues until each child has had a chance to share.

Bible Story: Mary of Bethany (15 min.)

TEACHER: "Gather around, kids! Today, we're diving into a beautiful story from the Bible about a woman named Mary of Bethany. This story shows us how much she loved Jesus and what it means to have a deep devotion. Alright, imagine you're at a dinner party. There's delicious food, laughter, and friends all around. In the middle of this party, something incredible happens. Let's find out!"

Show Bible Lesson Video

Now let's look at the story from the Bible. Open your Bibles to John 12.

READ: John 12:1-3

TEACHER: "So, Mary took a bottle of very, very expensive perfume. What did she do with it?" *(Pause for responses.)*

"That's right! She poured it on Jesus' feet! And then, she did something even more surprising. She wiped His feet with her hair! Can you imagine the aroma filling the room? The sweet smell of the perfume would have been everywhere!"

- "How do you think the other people at the dinner felt? What might they have whispered to each other?" *(Pause for responses.)*

READ: John 12:4-6

TEACHER: "One of Jesus' friends, Judas, wasn't happy at all. He thought the perfume should have been sold and the money given to the poor. But here's a little secret: Judas didn't really care about the poor; he had some selfish motives."

- "Have you ever seen someone do something nice but didn't understand why? Or maybe you did something kind, and others didn't get it?" *(Pause for responses.)*

READ: John 12:7-8

TEACHER: "Jesus had a beautiful response to all this. He said that what Mary did was for a very special reason, hinting at what would happen to Him soon. She showed her love and devotion to Him in a unique and selfless way."

- "Why do you think Mary poured the costly perfume on Jesus' feet? What does this act teach us about how she felt towards Jesus?" *(Pause for responses.)*

TEACHER: "Mary's act of pouring the perfume on Jesus teaches us about deep devotion and the significance of selfless love. **It's about showing love without expecting anything in return.** Her actions that day were a beautiful act of worship."

- "How can we show our love and devotion to Jesus today? What are some ways we can 'pour out' our love for Him?" *(Pause for responses.)*

TEACHER: "Excellent answers, everyone! Remember, like Mary, we can show our love for Jesus in many ways, big or small. Every act of kindness, every prayer, every song sung from the heart is like pouring out our own bottle of precious perfume for Him."

"Let's take a moment to think about one way we can show our love for Jesus this week. And as we go through the week, let's remember Mary's selfless act of love and devotion."

Discussion Questions & Prayer

"Hey, everyone! Great job listening to the lesson today. I'm so proud of how attentive each of you was. Now, let's dive a bit deeper and talk about what we learned from today's story about Mary of Bethany and her deep devotion to Jesus."

Discussion Questions:

- Why did Mary pour the expensive perfume on Jesus? How do you think that made Him feel?
- How can we show our love and devotion to Jesus daily?
- Mary's gift to Jesus was from the heart. What's something from the heart you would like to give or do for Jesus?

"Thank you for sharing your thoughts and feelings with the group. Now, does anyone have any prayer requests? Anything you'd like to share or ask God about?"

Crosstown: Review Bible verse with the kids again.

Konnect: Play Bible Verse Game

Craft: Color your own Easter cross stand up (10 min.)

<https://www.orientaltrading.com/color-your-own-religious-easter-cross-stand-ups-12-pc--a2-14097257.fltr?keyword=color%20your%20own%20Easter%20cross%20stand%20up&directSearch=true>

Konnect Only Memory Verse Activity: **Memory Relay Race (5 min.)**

Supplies:

Large cards or pieces of paper. Write each word from John 11:25 on separate cards. Make two sets (for two teams).

Two baskets or boxes. Place each set of words in a separate basket or box, and shuffle them up.

Cones or markers to designate the start and end of the relay area. Set up a relay area with a clear start and finish line.

TEACHER: "Today, we're going to have a fun relay race to help us remember our memory verse, John 11:25. Here's how it'll work!"

Form Teams: "Divide yourselves into two teams and line up behind the start line." (Make sure enough confident readers are on each team.)

The Race: "One by one, each team member will run to their team's basket, pick up one word from the verse, and run back to hand it to the next person. The next person will do the same."

Assembling the Verse: "Once all the words are collected, the whole team will work together to arrange the words correctly."

TEACHER: (after the game) "Great job, everyone! Now, let's read the verse aloud together. By playing games like this and practicing, we can store God's Word in our hearts." If time allows, reset the game with different teams to repeat.

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Questions to Discuss with Your Children:

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- How can we show our love and devotion to Jesus daily?
- Mary's gift to Jesus was from the heart. What's something from the heart you would like to give or do for Jesus?



Mary anointed Jesus' feet.