

# Mary Shows Love For Jesus

## Overview



### Materials You'll Need

- beads (for stringing), colored ones and lettered-ones
- child-length shoelaces (thin ones)



### Scriptures

Mt 26:6-13; Mk 14:3-9; Jn 12:1-8

### Bible Truth Objective(s)

Jesus is worthy of our love

### Behavioral Objective(s)

To offer our best and show love toward others; to understand that showing love toward others is the same as showing love to Jesus

### Memory Verse

"She has done a good work for me."  
(Mk 14:6)



## Bible Knowledge

### Mary, Martha and Lazarus

Mary, Martha and Lazarus of Bethany were friends of Jesus and they had known Him for a while. Jesus had visited the home of Mary and Martha, where Mary listened to Jesus' teachings (Lk 10:38-42). When Mary's brother Lazarus was sick, she and Martha sent a messenger to Jesus, hoping He would come and heal Lazarus (Jn 11:1-3). Jesus did indeed raise Lazarus from the dead, but only after he had been in the tomb for four days to demonstrate the glory and power of God. From the sequence of events, it was after this miracle that the sisters Mary and Martha prepared supper for Jesus to thank Him for resurrecting their brother (Jn 12:1-2).

John 12:3 records that Mary took a pound of very costly spikenard to anoint Jesus' feet. (The Gospels of Matthew and Mark record that Mary anointed Jesus on the head.) Judas Iscariot claimed that the oil could have sold for about three hundred denarii (Jn 12:5). If that were true, then the

oil would have been worth about a year's wages since a denarii was a laborer's wage for one day (Mt 20:2). Spikenard was in fact a very expensive perfume that was made from plants that grew in the high elevations of the Himalayas. Mary's gift highlighted the great value of Jesus' life.

It was the custom at the time to anoint the heads of guests with oil as they entered the home. That was a way to show honor and respect. So by anointing Jesus' feet, Mary was showing her complete devotion to Him. In addition, in Jewish society at that time, no woman would have appeared in the presence of a group of men with her hair unbound. For Mary to have wiped Jesus' feet with her hair was very unconventional. This act could only be done because of Mary's great love for Lord Jesus.

Normally, a body was embalmed by anointing it with oil and spices after a person's death. Here, Jesus was anointed with the expensive oil before He died. It is not clear if Mary realized that she was anointing Jesus for burial. But in any case, Jesus acknowledged His forthcoming death through her act of devotion (Lk 12:7).



## Understanding Your Students

In today's lesson, Mary demonstrated her great love for Jesus by anointing Him with expensive oil and wiping His feet with her hair. The students will probably not understand the value of the perfume, or the significance of her hair. But they can understand that Mary loved Jesus and wanted to show it in a special way.

Throughout the class, talk about the different ways the students can show their love for Jesus. It can be simple things such as picking up a hymn book and returning it to the shelf. God can see how much they care about Him since they are keeping the church clean. And it is not so much what they are doing that pleases God, but the attitude in which they do it. Sometimes, when we ask the children to pick up extra garbage or do more than

another child, they will complain. They might say, "How come he doesn't have to do it?" or "I didn't make this mess, so I don't need to clean it up." Children are especially self-centered, and it is normal for them to care only about themselves. That is why it is all the more critical to foster the correct attitude when doing work for God, even at a young age.

It can be hard, though, for the students to understand what it means to have the right attitude. Try discussing in concrete terms how a person might feel or look like when they are doing things happily for God (eg.. smiling, humming a tune, working hard). Conversely, if they are complaining, they might say certain words, look sad, have a frown on their face or their hearts might be beating fast. These concrete ideas can help the students identify whether they have the right attitude or not as they work for God.



## Vocabulary

### **Custom**

something that is done all the time

### **Perfume**

a liquid with a sweet smell



## Before You Teach

The Olympics is a widely watched event. Everyone is interested because they want to know who will win the gold medal in the various competitions. Interestingly, in today's advanced technological age, we see that many events are decided by fractions of a unit. Sometimes what separates a gold medal from a silver one is one-thousandth of a second. It is hard to lose that way, but the athletes resign themselves to the fact that this is the way the races are decided. They need to just accept their fate and move on.

Luckily, the kingdom of heaven is not like this. There isn't just one winner, decided by fractions of a second. Many of us want to enter into heaven and

we know that it is not easy to get in. Jesus has said that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than it is for a rich man to get into God's kingdom (Mt 19:24). This means those who are chosen are few. However, it is not impossible to obtain eternal life and, more importantly, the race is not given to the swiftest. In fact, it doesn't matter if we come in first, second, or even last. What matters is how we run the entire race. God wants to see, as we live in this world, whether we are more concerned about being number one or demonstrating humility. God wants to see if we are willing to share and make sacrifices instead of just focusing on ourselves. There isn't a clock at the finish line that determines if we win or not. Rather, God is the ultimate and absolute Judge. When we follow in His teachings and ways, we can be confident that we will not be disappointed in the end.



## Bible Story

In the last lesson, we learned about a shepherd who looked after one hundred sheep. One day, he lost one of them and he felt very sad. Do you remember what he did? (He went everywhere to look for this one lost sheep.) When he finally found the sheep, he was very happy. He was so happy that he invited his neighbors to celebrate with him. Jesus told this story to teach us that each of us is like a sheep. Jesus is our Shepherd. If we ever get lost, Jesus will come looking for us. He will always be there to guide us and help us, just as a shepherd looks after his sheep. Isn't Jesus a wonderful God? Today, we are going to learn more about Jesus' life and His teachings.

### **Jesus Is Invited to Dinner**

In today's lesson we will be learning about a very special dinner that Jesus was invited to. Have you ever gone to a special dinner? Many of us might have gone to a wedding dinner or a big family dinner at a fancy restaurant. We usually have to wear nice clothes and be on our best behavior. We sit around large tables and eat a lot of great tasting food.

Well, during Jesus' time, at the special dinner Jesus went to, the people did not sit at the table. Instead, they sat leaning on one elbow with their legs stretched out. They sometimes had cushions to lean on to be more comfortable. Have you ever eaten a meal by sitting and leaning on the floor? Let's try leaning down. (Have students recline around a table.) How does it feel? Well, this was the way people ate at special dinners. Let's start the story and see how Jesus was invited to this dinner.

One day when Jesus was travelling from place to place to tell people about God, He went to a place called Bethany. Jesus had many good friends who lived in Bethany and He was invited to dinner by a friend called Simon. Jesus was the special guest at this dinner. Many of Jesus' other friends were invited too. One family that went to the dinner had two sisters and a brother. Their names were Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. They were also very good friends of Jesus and they loved Jesus very much.

### **Martha and Lazarus Show Love to Jesus**

When Mary, Martha, and Lazarus heard that

Jesus was going to be the special guest at Simon's house, they were very excited. Have you ever had a special visitor come to your house? What did you do to help prepare for the visitor? (Allow students to answer.) Maybe your parents cleaned up the house. Maybe they cooked a yummy dinner for everyone. If the guest stayed for the night, then your parents might have had to make the bed so that the person could have a good night's rest. Well, Mary, Martha, and Lazarus wanted to do something special for Jesus too.

Martha and Mary thought about what they could do. They decided that they would go to Simon's house and cook a great meal for Jesus to show Him how much they loved Him.

Their brother Lazarus wanted to show Jesus how much he loved Him too. But what could he do? He decided that he would go to Simon's house and sit with Jesus to talk with Him.

### **Jesus Arrives at the Dinner**

When Jesus arrived, He was glad to find everything ready for Him. Jesus was probably tired and wanted to rest from all His travelling. He was probably hungry too! As soon as He came into the house, a servant brought a pitcher of clean water and washed His feet. This may seem a little bit strange to us but the people did this because it was the custom at that time. A custom is something that people do all the time. For example, we don't wash our feet when we visit a friend's house, but we usually take off our shoes. That is a custom. Jesus' feet were washed to show also how much everyone in the house respected and loved Him.

There were many people at the dinner and everyone was really happy to see Jesus. Remember Mary, Martha, and Lazarus? Remember how much they wanted to show Jesus they cared about Him? So right away, when Jesus sat at the table, Lazarus showed his joy by sitting with Him and talking with Jesus. While Jesus and the other disciples talked, Martha helped to serve the food and drinks. Both Lazarus and Martha were glad they could be with Jesus. Mary was happy too but she wished she could do something really special to show Jesus how much she loved Him.

Mary was probably thinking to herself, "What can I do to show Jesus I love Him?"

Mary thought and thought. Suddenly she

thought of something that she could do. She thought of a special gift she wanted to give to Jesus.

"Jesus should have my special gift. Instead of using it for myself, I will give it to Him to show how much I love Him," Mary thought.

### **Mary Pours Her Perfume on Jesus**

While everyone was busy eating and talking, Mary got her gift and went up to Jesus. Do you know what her gift was? Mary was holding a beautiful perfume bottle. Suddenly all the guests around the table smelled something very sweet. They stopped eating. The air smelled like beautiful flowers. What do you think happened next? Mary was standing beside Jesus. Then she began to pour all of the good-smelling perfume on Jesus' head and feet. After she poured the perfume, she took her long hair and wiped Jesus' feet with it. This may be a bit strange to us but this was another custom to show a guest that he was really loved and respected.

Now this bottle of perfume was very expensive. Mary could have used it on special days like going to a wedding or a special dinner. But she wanted to give it to Jesus to show Him how much she loved him. And she didn't just pour a little and save the rest for herself. She used the whole bottle of perfume. Sometimes it's not easy to give up something you love very much, but Mary was very happy to give her best to Jesus. She loved Jesus more than any expensive perfume! Jesus was also pleased that Mary did this.

However, someone at the dinner didn't think this

was a good idea. He thought Mary had wasted her expensive perfume.

"Why did she put that very expensive perfume on Jesus?" he asked out loud. "She could have sold the perfume for a lot of money and given the money to the poor people."

Jesus heard the man. He knew the man was not happy with what Mary had done. Jesus wanted the man to understand why Mary did this.

"Don't say anything against Mary," Jesus told him. "She has done this because she loves Me. Whenever people hear about Me, they will also hear about how Mary gave Me a very special gift because she loves Me."

### **We Love Jesus Too**

In today's story, we learned about the different ways Jesus' friends wanted to show Him how much they loved Him. Simon invited Jesus to a special dinner. Martha cooked and served Jesus the food. Lazarus made sure he sat with Jesus at the dinner table so that He would have someone to talk to. Mary poured all her expensive perfume on Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair. Each person showed in a different way how they loved Him so much. What can we do today to show Jesus that we love Him a lot too? (Allow time for some brainstorming. We can be kind to others, share our things with others, help others in need, pray to God, etc.) Jesus is happy when we show Him we love Him very much.



### **Check For Understanding**

1. **Who invited Jesus to his house for dinner?** (Simon.)
2. **What are the names of the two sisters and brother who showed their love for Jesus?** (Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.)
3. **What did Martha do?** (She helped to prepare the dinner and served Jesus the food.)
4. **What did Mary offer?** (She gave her best gift to Jesus, her precious perfume.)

5. **What did Mary do with the perfume?** (She poured it onto Jesus' head and feet and then wiped His feet with her hair.)
6. **When Jesus was on earth, He spent His days doing kind things and teaching people about God. Since Jesus had no home of His own, He visited and stayed in the homes of His friends. What would you do if Jesus came to your home?** (Allow students to answer.)
7. **Although we cannot talk to Jesus, cook for Him or give Him an expensive gift like the others could, what can we do to show Jesus how much we love Him?** (Allow stu-

dents to share their ideas. For example, when we cook for others, share with others what we have or talk to visitors who are new to the church or class, we are

showing Jesus how much we love Him because those are the things He would do too. Jesus wants us to always be kind, generous and helpful.)



## Life Application Story

### **"I Love My Sister More Than My Doll"**

One afternoon after school, Cathy was playing with her dolls in her bedroom. She loved her toys and she had a whole collection of dolls that she took care of very carefully.

There was one special doll she had named Samantha. This doll was special because she had used her birthday money from her grandparents to buy the doll. It was the first thing she had ever bought for herself, and the doll was her favorite. Samantha wore a pretty blue dress and had beautiful long brown hair that Cathy could brush with a small brush. At night, Samantha would sleep in a special doll bed that Cathy had made out of a shoebox. The shoebox had a small pillow and a small blanket for Samantha. Cathy had made the box look pretty by painting the outside purple.

While Cathy was playing with her dolls, Rachel came into her bedroom.

"Can I play too?" Rachel asked.

"Only if you promise to be careful with them," Cathy said.

Cathy didn't like Rachel playing with her dolls because Rachel was still little and didn't know how to take care of things. Once, Rachel had taken one of her dolls and cut her hair off because she thought the doll would look prettier with a haircut. Cathy had cried and yelled at her sister but her mom, Mrs. Hayes, had explained to Cathy that Rachel didn't understand that the hair wouldn't grow back. Plus, her mom had told her that she needed to be a good sister and share her things because Jesus would be happy with her.

"Thank you!" Rachel said. Rachel was really happy that she could play with her sister and her toys. Cathy had such nice dolls and her new doll Samantha was so pretty!

After a while, Mrs. Hayes popped her head in to check up on the girls.

"It's so nice to see you play nicely together," Mrs. Hayes said, "Would you like an afternoon snack, girls?"

"Yes, please," they both said.

"Then tidy up the dolls and come to the kitchen," Mrs. Hayes said. "I made some chocolate muffins."

Mrs. Hayes left and both girls began to pack up. Rachel was so excited about having chocolate muffins that while she was putting one of the dolls away she didn't pay attention to the other things lying on the floor. Uh oh! Rachel had stepped on Samantha's purple shoebox bed.

"How could you?" Cathy screamed. "You broke Samantha's bed!"

"I'm sorry," Rachel said. "I didn't see it."

"You're not playing with my toys ever again," Cathy screamed. "Get out of my room!"

Rachel began to cry. She didn't mean to step on the shoebox and now her sister was angry with her. She ran out of the room and down the stairs to find Mrs. Hayes. As she was nearly at the bottom of the stairs she tripped and fell.

"Ouch!" Rachel cried loudly as she felt a very sharp pain in her arm.

Both Cathy and Mrs. Hayes ran to Rachel to see if she was okay. But Rachel did not look okay at all so Mrs. Hayes took Rachel to the emergency room right away.

Later that night, Rachel lay in bed. She had broken her arm when she fell down the stairs. The doctor had covered her arm with wet bandages that dried hard after a little while. The doctor said that the hard bandage was called a cast and it would help her arm get better.

As she lay in her bed, Rachel heard a knock on her door. Cathy walked in with one hand behind her back.

"I'm sorry for yelling at you, Rachel," Cathy said. She hugged her little sister with one arm. "I really thank God you're okay now. I was so scared when you were in the hospital. I want you to have

this." Cathy showed Rachel what she was hiding behind her back. It was Samantha!

Cathy put Samantha on Rachel's bed.

"You are giving this doll to me?" asked Rachel.

"Yes. I talked with Mom and she said that I shouldn't have yelled at you. She also said Jesus doesn't like it when we are angry. He wants us to be kind and nice to others. Mom says that is the same as being kind and nice to Jesus," explained Cathy.

"Thank you!" Rachel said happily, as she looked at the doll lying next to her.

Cathy smiled at her little sister. "Let's pray together before we go to bed."

### Questions to Think About

1. **What was Cathy's favorite toy?** (The doll she called Samantha.)
2. **Why did Cathy give her favorite toy to her little sister?** (She was sorry she was angry at her sister. She wanted to show Rachel that she loved her more than her favorite toy.)
3. **How can we show kindness to others?** (Allow students to answer.)



### Activity 1

#### Mary Shows Love For Jesus

Look at the pictures. The story of how Mary showed love for Jesus is mixed up. Which should be the first picture? Put the pictures in the right order.

(Picture 1: Everyone is eating at Simon's house.

Picture 2: Mary pours the oil onto Jesus.

Picture 3: Mary wipes Jesus' feet with her hair.

Picture 4: Jesus tells Mary she has done a wonderful thing.)



### Activity 2

#### Things I Can Do To Show Love

Look at each picture. What kind of things can we do to show love for others and Jesus? Fill in the blanks with these words: **hello, care, pray, help.**

1. I can say \_\_\_\_\_ (hello) to another brother or sister in church.
2. I can take \_\_\_\_\_ (care) of a younger person who needs help.
3. I can \_\_\_\_\_ (pray) for someone who is sick or can't come to church.
4. I can \_\_\_\_\_ (help) my parents around the house.



### Activity 3

#### Love Bracelets

##### Materials:

1. lettered beads for stringing, regular colored beads
2. children-length shoelaces (thin ones)

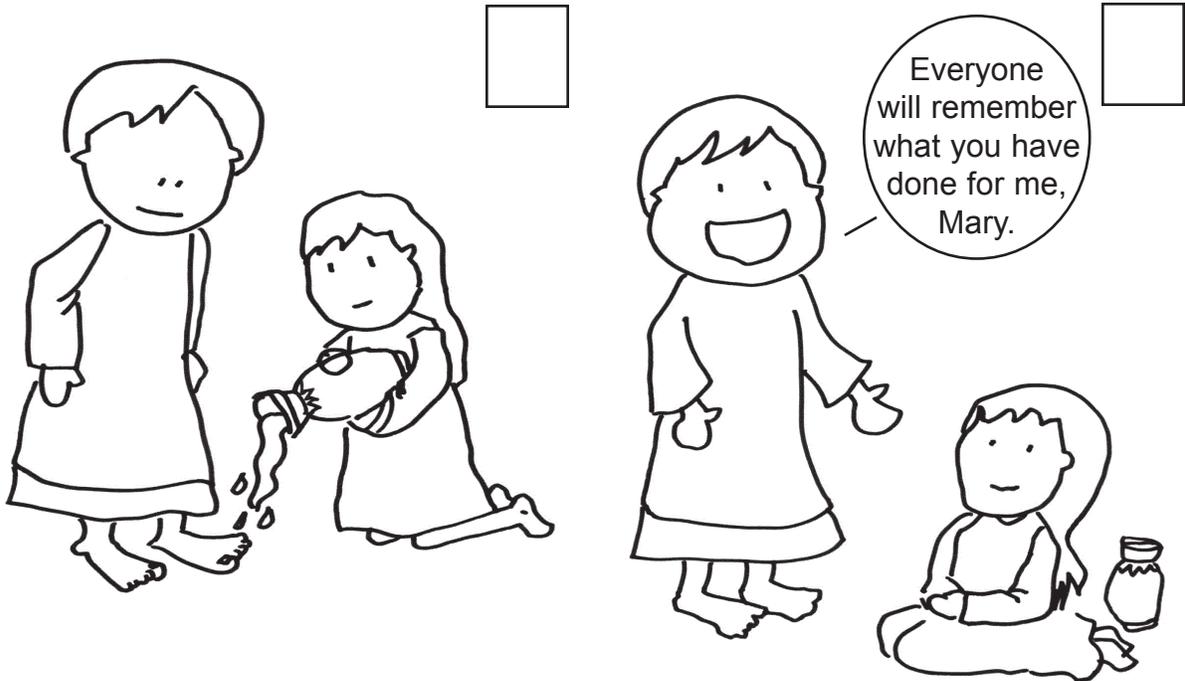
##### Directions:

1. Provide each student with a shoelace.
2. Look through the beads and help the students spell out a word with the letters that will remind them to show love to people and God. Some examples: God, Love, Jesus, Help, Pray.
3. They can also pick out other regular colors to fill in the rest of the string. They only need as much as their wrists or ankles can fit.
4. Once they have strung their beads in the order they want to, help the students tie off their bracelet (or anklet).
5. As they wear their bracelets, remind them to show love to people and to God daily.

Activity 5:1

### Mary Shows Love For Jesus

Look at the pictures. The story of how Mary showed love for Jesus is mixed up.  
Which should be the first picture? Put the pictures in the right order.



Activity 5:2

### Things I Can Do to Show Love

Look at each picture. What kind of things can we do to show love for others and Jesus? Fill in the blanks with these words: hello, care, pray, help.



1. I can say \_\_\_\_\_ to another brother or sister in church.



2. I can take \_\_\_\_\_ of a younger person who needs help.



3. I can \_\_\_\_\_ for someone who is sick or can't come to church.



4. I can \_\_\_\_\_ my parents around the house.