Lesson Objectives

• The children will tell the story of Jesus’ anointing at Bethany.
• The children will state that Mary showed her gratitude by serving Jesus.
• The children will tell one way they can show appreciation for Jesus.

Lesson Text

John 12:1-8

Scripture Memory Verse

But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:57

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: 2-4-6-8!

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Bible Story: Master’s Feet Theater

Craft: Place of Honor

Scripture Memory: Thank You

Notes

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.
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2-4-6-8!

The children will preview today’s lesson as they think about people they appreciate.

Materials

For each child:
- crayons or markers
- glue stick
- scissors

For the teacher:
- large writing surface
- 1 piece of banner paper, 6’
- magazines with pictures of families and children
- masking tape

Preparation

1. On the large writing surface, write the words: Mother; Father; Teacher; Doctor; Nurse; Grandmother; Grandfather; Babysitter; Coach; Minister or Preacher; Neighbor; Friend; Bible Class Teacher; Mailman; God; Jesus; the Church.
2. Across the middle of the banner paper, neatly print in large letters: 2-4-6-8! Who do we appreciate?
3. Write on the banner in smaller print, the name of one person you appreciate and one reason why. For example: “My mother. She takes care of me.” Sign your name.

Instructions

1. Greet the children as they arrive. Explain that in today’s lesson they are going to learn about someone who loved and appreciated Jesus very much. Tell the children that appreciation is when you tell or show love and thankfulness for someone. It is when you think, “I am so glad that ________ is my friend (or neighbor, doctor, minister, etc.).”
2. Direct the children to look at the list of words on the large writing surface and read them to the children. On the banner, they will write the names of people that they appreciate. They will also write one thing they appreciate about that person. They can use the ideas given or think of others.
3. Show the children the banner you prepared. Tell them that they can also use the magazines to cut out pictures of people and glue these to the banner.
4. Distribute the scissors, glue sticks, magazines and crayons. Tell the children to write as many names as they want, and to sign their name beside each one.
5. Circulate among the children to help them with spelling and ask what they appreciate about the people they have chosen.

Teacher Tips

- For large classes, set up several banners and have groups of children working on different banners.

2-4-6-8! Who do we appreciate?

My mother - She takes care of me.
Mrs. Murphy
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Master’s Feet Theater

The children will learn today’s Bible Story as they participate in this story telling.

Materials
For the teacher:
• bowl
• empty perfume bottle
• perfume
• apron

Preparation
Carefully read through the narration and role play directions in this story. Think about your classroom space and how to best adapt it to your class.

Introducing the Bible Story
Open your Bible to John 12:1-8. Tell the children that today’s Bible Story comes from the New Testament book of John chapter 12. Explain to the children that this lesson, as well as the next three lessons in this unit, are focused on ways that Jesus gives life. During the season of Easter, people celebrate Jesus being raised from the dead. Tell the children that over the next four lessons, they are going to learn what happened to Jesus before he died and was buried, then what happened when God raised him from the dead. Explain that these are some of the most exciting stories in the Bible.

In our story today, you are going to meet a woman named Mary. Mary had a sister named Martha and a brother named Lazarus. Have the children repeat the names after you. Mary, Martha and Lazarus were Jesus’ friends. Jesus had helped them and taught them about God. Once, when Lazarus got very sick, they called Jesus to come and heal him. But by the time Jesus got there, Lazarus was already dead. But Jesus made him alive again! Jesus’ friends were so thankful that they wanted to show Jesus how much they appreciated him. Ask the children what they would do for someone who saved the life of their brother or sister. Tell them that they will see how Mary showed her appreciation for Jesus.

Ask the children: Have any of you had a friend come to visit you recently? When someone comes to my house, I invite them in and shake their hand or give them a hug. If they have a coat, I hang it up for them. If it is hot out, I offer them a cold drink. How do you feel when someone greets you this way? (Take brief responses.) Tell them that they will see how Mary made Jesus feel special in her home.

Presenting the Bible Story
Tell the children that they are going to act out today’s Bible Story. Choose children to play the following roles: Jesus; Mary; Martha; Lazarus; Judas; friends with Jesus.

Have Jesus sit on the floor with Lazarus and the friends sitting around him, talking and having a good time. Give Martha an apron and have her pretend to serve food. As the narrator, tell the following story, involving the children as you tell it:

Mary, Martha and Lazarus were excited that Jesus was coming to their house. They wanted everything to be just right. In the country where Jesus lived, it was dry and the ground was dusty. They did not have paved roads and sidewalks the way we do today. Most of the time people wore sandals and their feet got really dirty. The people usually had a bowl of water at the door so that people could wash their feet when they arrived. Some people had servants who washed people’s feet. It was a dirty job. Mary was very thankful to Jesus because of all the ways he had helped her and her family. She wanted to show Jesus how thankful she was so she washed Jesus’ feet herself. Tell Mary to take the bowl and pretend to wash Jesus’ feet. (Do not have the children remove their shoes.) Mary had very long hair. When she was washing Jesus’ feet, she dried them with her long hair. Then she put very expensive perfume on his feet. These perfumes had oil in them to make his feet feel really good after so much walking. Give Mary the perfume bottle and pretend to pour perfume on Jesus’ feet. Pass around the perfume you brought to let the children smell it.

Everyone could smell the perfume! It filled the whole house. Judas Iscariot was bothered by this. Have Judas stand up and say: “Why did you waste this expensive perfume? You could have sold it and given the money to poor people.”
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But Jesus knew that Mary had done a good thing. Have Jesus tell Judas: “Leave her alone. She was supposed to do this. You will always have poor people around, but you will not always have me.” Jesus knew that he would have to die soon. Mary had done exactly what God wanted her to do.

Share and Tell
Thank the children for their participation in the story. Remind them that Mary and her family wanted to show Jesus how much they loved him. Tell the children that they can show Jesus their love for him by telling others about him. Ask the children who they can tell this week about Jesus. Encourage the children to bring their friends to church next week to hear the story about Jesus riding through Jerusalem on a donkey before he had to die. Close with a prayer for the children to have a deep love and appreciation for Jesus.

Teacher Tips
• If the empty perfume bottle still has the smell of perfume, do not bring in additional perfume.
• To enhance the role play aspect of this activity, supply simple costumes and additional props. Create a simple stage area. If possible, invite parents to a special performance.
• The four lessons in this unit have been designed for the Easter season. Plan special invitations for these lessons.
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Place of Honor

The children will make a craft that will help them identify ways to show appreciation to Jesus.

Materials

For each child:
- 1 piece of colored construction paper, 9" x 12"
- crayons or markers
- pencil
- glue stick
- 2 pieces of clear contact paper, 10" x 13" (or at least 1/8" larger than the construction paper)

For the teacher:
- scissors

Reproducible Pages:
- Page A, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

1. Cut out the statements from the copies of Reproducible Page A.
2. Make a sample craft to show the children.

Instructions

1. Introduce today’s activity: In our Bible Story today, you are learning about a woman named Mary who showed her appreciation for Jesus in a very special way—she held a special dinner in his honor. She served him by washing his feet. Mary appreciated Jesus because he had helped her to change her life, and he did a miracle for her brother by bringing him back from the dead! Mary felt very thankful for Jesus. She wanted to honor him by doing something special for him. Today you are going to make a special place mat to put on your table at home. It will help you share with your family and visiting friends the story of how Mary honored Jesus and ways that you can honor him too.

2. Show the children the sample you made. Read all of the statements on the mat.
3. Distribute the statements you prepared, pencils, glue sticks, construction paper and crayons. Have the children write their names in the designated spaces on the statements and glue them onto their construction paper. Have them decorate their pages. See Figure A as an example. Make sure they write their names on their pages.
4. When they are finished, help them cover their pages with the contact paper, as shown in Figure B. They will need adult assistance to place the contact paper and smooth out wrinkles.
5. Circulate among the children to trim the edge of the place mats, leaving a quarter-inch border around the edges of the construction paper, as shown in Figure C.

Conclusion

Ask the children to tell the group one way they will show Jesus their appreciation. Encourage the children to ask their family members at the dinner table what they appreciate about Jesus. Close with a prayer for the children to show their appreciation to Jesus by sharing with others.

Teacher Tips

- Assign one adult assistant to help with the clear contact paper.
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Jesus Gives Life
Lesson 1

1st and 2nd Grades

Spring 1

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Figure A

Figure B

Figure C
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Thank You Notes

The children will learn and memorize today’s Scripture Memory Verse through this fun sing-along activity.

Scripture Memory Verse
But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Corinthians 15:57

Materials
No additional materials needed.

Preparation
1. Memorize this week’s Scripture Memory Verse.
2. Practice leading this activity at home.

Instructions
1. Introduce today’s activity: In your Bible Story today, you are learning about a woman named Mary who loved and appreciated Jesus. Jesus loved Mary and her family very much. Jesus helped Mary when she was having problems in her life, and he also did a miracle when her brother Lazarus died. Jesus made him alive again! Mary was very thankful for Jesus. Our Scripture Memory today is a verse that will help us to show our thankfulness and appreciation for Jesus.

2. Show the children the Scripture Memory Verse on the back of this Lesson Card. Read it to the children three times, pointing to each word as you say it. Ask the children to say it together with you three more times, still pointing to each word.

3. Ask the children if they know what “victory” means? Explain that victory is when a person wins a game or solves an important problem. Give an example using a sporting event.

4. Tell the children that Jesus gives us victory in our lives so that we can be happy whether we win or lose.

5. Have all the children stand and say the verse together with you five times, increasing in speed each time. Ask for volunteers to say the verse from memory.

6. Ask the children that they are going to sing the memory verse. Start this by “singing” the verse to a familiar tune or one you make up. Once you have finished, the child next to you joins in and you both sing it together. Then the next child joins in and so on until all of the children have joined in and sung the verse together.

7. Ask for any children who would like to sing a solo at the end.

Conclusion
Ask the children to think of one thing that they need to have a victory in. The answers may be serious, such as a parent’s illness or job loss, or they might be lighter, such as an upcoming test or little league game. Encourage the children that God and Jesus want to give them a victory in all areas of their lives. Close with a prayer for the children to see God’s victory in their lives.

Teacher Tips
• Think of a tune in advance or make one up and practice it so that you are comfortable leading the song portion of this activity.

• Bobby loves baseball. It is all he cares about. He only has friends who love baseball. He only wears baseball shirts. He makes fun of children who play other sports. Bobby even yells at his own friends when they drop a ball or strike out. Bobby is only happy when he wins.

• Ben is on Bobby’s team. He loves baseball too, but he loves God more. Ben goes to church and plays lots of different sports with his friends. Ben has friends who do lots of different things. Ben enjoys playing baseball but he knows that the most important thing is making his friends feel special. He doesn’t care who wins as long as he and his friends have fun.

Tell the children that Jesus gives us victory in our lives so that we can be happy whether we win or lose.
But thanks be to God!
He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:57
Lesson Objectives

- The children will tell the story of Jesus’ anointing at Bethany.
- The children will state that Mary showed her gratitude by serving Jesus.
- The children will tell one way they can show appreciation for Jesus.

Lesson Text

John 12:1-8

Scripture Memory Verse

But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:57

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Chain of Honor

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Life Application: Weaving Thanks

Game: Happy Hopping

Bible Skills: Who’s Who?

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.

Materials

For each child:
- 6 strips of construction paper, 1½" x 12"
- glue stick

For the teacher:
- scissors
- large writing surface
- invisible tape

Reproducible Pages:
- Page B, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

1. Cut out a set of story strips for each child from the copies of Reproducible Page B.
2. Make a sample chain.

Instructions

1. Greet the children as they arrive. Show them the sample chain that you made. Explain that the chain is made up of colored paper strips as well as the strips that tell this week’s Bible Story.
2. Have the children find a partner or small group of three to work with. Distribute the story strips you prepared, construction paper strips and glue sticks. Read the six strips to the children. Tell the children to write on each of their construction paper strips some ways they can show appreciation for Jesus. (Give examples: thank God in prayer; sing to God; reach up to God and say thank you; tell others how awesome God is; spend a special time reading your Bible and talking to God.) Use the large writing surface to help the children with spelling.
3. Tell the children to make their chains by alternating the colored strips with the story strips. Show the children how to make a loop with the letters facing outward, gluing the ends together. Have the children hold the glued ends together tightly between their fingers for ten seconds before making another loop. Reinforce with small pieces of invisible tape.
4. Have the children write their names on their chains when they are finished.

Teacher Tips

- One piece of 9" x 12" construction paper equals six strips.
- Have extra strips in case of mistakes or strips that tear.
Weaving Thanks

The children will review the Bible Story and share at least one way they can show their appreciation for Jesus.

**Materials**

For the teacher:
- large writing surface
- ball of yarn

**Preparation**

1. On the large writing surface, neatly print the following ideas:
   - Read the Bible; Pray; Sing; Tell others that God is awesome; Praise; Make a thank you card; Invite friends to church; Obey your parents; Obey your teacher; Go to church.
2. Practice leading this activity at home with personal appreciation for Jesus.

**Reviewing the Bible Story**

Open your Bible to John 12. Remind the children that this week's Bible Story comes from the New Testament book—gospel—of John chapter 12. Do you remember that Jesus was invited to his friends' home for a special dinner in his honor? Jesus had helped Mary and made her brother alive again after he had died. Mary's family was very thankful and grateful to Jesus. They wanted to do some things to show Jesus how much they appreciated him. Mary's sister, Martha, served. Mary's brother, Lazarus, sat with Jesus at the table. And Mary sat on the floor and washed Jesus' feet with her hair and then poured perfume on them. It was expensive perfume too. But Mary wanted to do something to make Jesus feel very special and very honored.

Some people will not understand our love and appreciation for God. Even Judas—one of Jesus' disciples—thought Mary was wasting too much money to honor Jesus with perfume! But Jesus told Judas that Mary did the right thing. We should always try to think of special things we can do to show God how much we love him.

**Life Application**

Have the children look at the large writing surface and the list of ideas for ways to show their appreciation for God. Read them aloud and ask them to repeat after you. Tell them that they are going to play a fun game in which they will say one way they can show their appreciation for God. The children may use the ideas on the large writing surface, or they can think of their own.

Have the children sit in a circle. Hold up the ball of yarn. With this ball of yarn, we are going to weave a web. We're going to weave it by tossing the ball of yarn back and forth to each other across the circle. Each of us will get a chance to share one way to honor and thank Jesus. For example: I can honor God by obeying the Bible. Now I will gently loop the yarn around one of my hands and I will toss it to one of you. If you catch the yarn, it is your turn to say how you will honor God. After you are done, loop the yarn once around your hand, and toss it across the circle to someone else. We'll keep doing this until everyone has had a chance to share. Then we will keep going until we have made a beautiful web.

**Conclusion**

Have the children take the piece of yarn that is looped around their hands and set it down gently in front of them. Tell them to look at web and see how it shows how there are so many ways we can show thankfulness to Jesus. Close with a prayer thanking God for Jesus.

**Teacher Tips**

- Make sure to try this a few times until you are comfortable leading the weaving activity.
Happy Hopping

The children will review the Bible Story as they think of ways to show their appreciation for Jesus.

Materials

For each child:
- a small flat object (coin, pog, bean bag, etc.)

For the teacher:
- removable tape
- 6 pieces of paper
- black marker
- large writing surface

Preparation

1. Using the removable tape, make a hopscotch surface on the floor by drawing six squares. Each square should each be about two feet. Use the pattern provided on the back of this Lesson Card.

2. On the six pieces of paper, write the words and numbers for the six hopscotch squares, following the pattern on the back of this Lesson Card. Tape them to one corner in each of the squares, so that the children do not hop on the paper.

3. On the large writing surface, write out the Scripture Memory Verse. (It is written below in Step 3 of the Instructions.)

4. Read John 12:1-8 to familiarize yourself with the Bible Story.

5. Practice playing this game at home.

Instructions

1. Introduce today’s activity: In this week’s lesson, you are learning about ways to show appreciation and honor to Jesus. You learned that a special dinner was held in Jesus’ honor by his friends Mary, Martha and Lazarus. They wanted to thank Jesus for the ways that he had helped their family. Mary also served and honored Jesus in a special way. She washed his feet with her hair and then poured expensive perfume on them. Mary is a good example to us of ways to serve and honor Jesus.

2. Tell the children that today’s game is played like hopscotch. They will take turns throwing the bean bag marker on the hopscotch squares and then hopping and telling something from the lesson. For example: the first child tosses the marker onto the first square. Then he hops over that square to the next one, and continues hopping to the end and back. (The child puts both feet down on the two adjacent squares, #4 and #5.) The child hops back and stops at the second square, picks up the marker, and jumps over the first square and off the game space.

3. To finish a turn, the children will pick up the marker and do one of the following:
   Square 1: Tell one way Mary showed her appreciation for Jesus.
   Square 2: Tell one way you can show your appreciation for Jesus.
   Square 3: Say the Scripture Memory Verse. (But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:57)
   Square 4: Tell one thing from the Bible Story that you remember.
   Square 5: FREE!
   Square 6: Tell one way you can show appreciation for Jesus.

4. Play continues until all the children have had a chance to toss the marker on all six squares.

5. After all the children have completed Square 1, then they begin Square 2. Continue this way until all the children have completed all six squares. Encourage the children to help each other think of ideas and remember the Scripture Memory Verse.

Conclusion

Encourage the children about their participation in today’s activity. Suggest that they play this at home with friends or family members. Close with a prayer thanking God for all the fun ways we can learn the Bible.

Teacher Tips

- Most church facilities do not permit the use of tape on floors or carpets. For a reusable hopscotch surface, purchase a large sheet of vinyl (about 5' x 10') from a home improvement center and draw the board with thick, permanent marker.
- In the case of an outdoor class setting, the hopscotch surface can be made with sidewalk chalk.
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Lesson 1

1. Me
2. Me
3. Story
4. FREE
5. Scripture Memory Verse

Mary

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Who's Who?
The children will review this week's Bible Story, matching the characters with the important ideas from the lesson.

Materials
For the teacher:
- scissors
- 6 index cards, 3" x 5"
- glue stick

Reproducible Pages:
- Page C, 2 copies for the teacher

Preparation
1. Cut out the cards from both of your copies of Reproducible Page C.
2. Cut each of the six index cards in half, making twelve cards. (2½" x 3")
3. Glue the twelve cards from the copies of Reproducible Page C onto the twelve smaller index cards.
4. Practice leading this activity at home.

Instructions
1. Introduce today's activity: In your Bible Story this week, you learned about some people who loved and appreciated Jesus very much. Mary, Martha and Lazarus were brother and sisters and they invited Jesus to their home for a special dinner to honor Jesus. They each wanted to show Jesus their thanks. Martha served the food. Lazarus sat with Jesus to make him feel welcome. And Mary washed Jesus' feet and poured expensive perfume on them to make him feel very special.

   But there was one person there who did not agree with what Mary did. Judas thought Mary wasted the perfume by using it to wash Jesus' feet. Judas did not appreciate Jesus like Mary did. The Bible says that Judas used to take money that was not his. His thoughts were greedy and not grateful.

2. Show the children the cards you prepared. Explain that each card has a name or a picture. Hold up each of the four name cards and read them to the children. Then hold up the four picture cards. Ask the children:
   - What name does the picture of the perfume being poured onto feet belong to? (Mary)
   - What name does the picture of the person in a serving apron belong to? (Martha)
   - What name does the picture of the grateful friend belong to? (Lazarus)
   - What name does the picture of the perfume and money belong to? (Judas)

3. Mix up the cards and place them face down in three rows of four. Have the children take turns turning over two cards at a time. The object is for the children to match the name with the correct picture and tell what the picture represents. For example: the apron matches the Martha card and the child could say, “Martha served food at the dinner for Jesus.”

4. Play as many rounds as time permits. This can also be played by matching the names together and the pictures together.

Conclusion
Tell the children that the Bible is full of exciting stories like this one. Encourage them that the more they know about the Bible, the more they can teach others about Jesus. Close with a prayer for the children to remember this story and the important lesson from this week.

Teacher Tips
- Reproduce Page C on heavy, colored paper and laminate to make a more durable material.
Mary served Jesus.

__________ will do something special for Jesus.

Mary did something special for Jesus.

Mary thought about Jesus.

__________ will serve Jesus.

__________ will think about Jesus.

__________ will do something special for Jesus.

Core/Craft
1 copy for each child
Supplement/Preclass
1 copy for each child (Optional - extra copies for mistakes)

Mary showed her appreciation for Jesus by doing special things for him.

Jesus went to his friends’ house for a special dinner.

Mary, Martha and Lazarus wanted to honor Jesus.

Mary was very thankful for all the ways that Jesus helped her family.

Mary served Jesus by washing his feet.

Mary honored Jesus by pouring perfume on his feet.
Supplement/Bible Skills
2 copies for the teacher (Optional - heavy, colored paper)

Mary
Martha
Lazarus
Judas