



Anointing Jesus

(based on Mark 14:3-9)

Earlier in the week, Jesus entered Jerusalem, riding a donkey. Crowds cheered him, waving palms and shouting, “Hosanna!” But then things changed. His days were filled with visits to the temple and religious leaders trying to trick him with questions to show he was a fake.

Now it is two days until the Passover meal. Jesus and his followers are in Bethany, a village just outside Jerusalem, having dinner at a friend’s house. While Jesus is at the table, a woman comes in with a beautiful alabaster jar of expensive perfumed oil. She breaks open the seal on the jar and pours the oil on Jesus, anointing him. It is a moment of beauty in the midst of all that is happening and is to come. Jesus smiles. He knows what she is doing, and it warms his heart.

Some of the others, however, are shocked and angered. They see only something expensive being wasted that could have been sold for quite a bit of money and used to help the poor. They scold the woman.

They can’t see what Jesus sees. They don’t know what Jesus knows.

Jesus says, “Leave her alone. Why are you giving her such a hard time?” Then he explains, “Of course, money will always help the poor, but there will always be poor to help. Keep showing them kindness. But you will not always have me. She has done a beautiful thing for me, a service that you don’t even know about. She has anointed my body for its burial, for there will be no chance to do that soon.”

The others are silent, wondering what Jesus is saying.

Jesus continues, “Believe it or not, wherever my story is told, wherever the good news of God’s love is proclaimed, this beautiful thing that she has done will be told in memory of her.”



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Use one or more activities from each section to explore grace and gratitude with your children this week.

Recognizing God's Grace

- Read and enjoy the story together—imagine and wonder.
- Watch the YouTube video “Alabaster Box —Cece Winans (Lyrics In Video)” ([bit.ly /AlabasterBoxVideo](https://bit.ly/AlabasterBoxVideo), 6:12). Wonder together what would be your “alabaster box,” that thing you would give or do to show your gratitude to Jesus for his love and forgiveness.



Responding to God's Grace

- Do an Internet image search for “woman anointing Jesus’ feet.” Look at some of the different pictures together. Talk about which one really grabs your attention. Enlarge that picture. Consider the following questions: What does this picture tell you about the woman? About Jesus? What emotions or feelings does this picture evoke in you?
- Play a true-false game about the story. Make the following statements and invite people to stand up if the statement is true or cross their arms across their chest if the statement is false.
 - Jesus went to visit Simon. (True)
 - The people wanted this woman at the dinner party. (False)
 - The woman poured bargain perfume on Jesus, to save money. (False)
 - The disciples were happy the woman loved Jesus so much. (False)
 - Jesus was happy the woman loved him so much. (True)
 - Jesus said the perfume would make the leaders like him better. (False)
 - Jesus said the woman was forgiven by God. (True)
 - This woman thought Jesus would make her rich. (False)
 - Jesus wants us to love him with true faith, like the woman. (True)

Celebrating in Gratitude

- Go to www.youtube.com and search for “Amazing Grace” lyrics. Sing along and marvel in God’s love and grace.
- Pray this prayer each day this week.

Dear God, thank you for your love and forgiveness given to us through Jesus. Amen.

Note: bit.ly web addresses are case sensitive.