

Hope in the LORD! Be strong! Let your heart take courage! Hope in the LORD!  
(Psalm 27:14)

## Mary Anoints Jesus – John 12:1-8

### Prepare to Wonder

#### Faith Word: COURAGE

Today we have another Bible story of a woman showing courage and discipline to God and to her faith. This story, which is found in the New Testament, is about Mary showing love to Jesus by anointing his feet. Mary pours an expensive perfume on Jesus' feet. Judas, a man who often steals money, is angry that she is wasting the perfume. However, Mary's loving act is a way of honoring Jesus, and Jesus acknowledges it.

Mary is disciplined through her faith in Jesus and shows courage in doing such an extravagant act. However, her courage teaches us that sometimes we must take risks to show our love.

Children might wonder about the expensive perfume and why Mary would want to anoint Jesus' feet. These are great things to wonder about. Courage can look different to various people. The way one person shows courage might not be the way someone else shows courage. We are courageous when we follow God, and being faithful sometimes means doing the unexpected.

#### Spiritual Practice for Adults

This week, find a scented candle. Light the candle and spend some time in prayer. As you smell the scent, remember Mary and consider one way you can show God's extravagant love in the world.

When you have come up with a way you can show God's love, blow out the candle and say, "Amen." You may light this candle anytime. When you smell the scent, remember your task to show God's love courageously.

# Come Together

## Welcome to Wonder

**Supplies:** *Class Pack—pp. 16 & 17; Leader Guide—pp. 4, 85; Activity Sheets (Session 12); Celebrate Wonder Annual Music CD; CD player; stickers or markers; items for Wonder Table (small table, green cloth, and items such as a candle, a cross, a plant); Wonder Box; jar of essential oil; jars (one per child); pencils; pens*

**Prepare Ahead:** *Display the Attendance Chart (Class Pack). Set up a Wonder Table (see Leader—p. 4). Place the jar of essential oil inside the Wonder Box. Set the Wonder Box on the Wonder Table.*

- Play “Celebrate Wonder” (CD) as the children arrive. Lyrics are on page 85 of the Leader Guide.
- Greet each child. Show the children where to mark the Attendance Chart using a sticker or a marker.
- Distribute this week’s Activity Sheet (Session 12). Help the children interact with the activity.

## Sing and Celebrate

**Supplies:** *Leader Guide—p. 88, Celebrate Wonder Annual Music CD or Celebrate Wonder DVD, CD player, DVD player, TV*

**Prepare Ahead:** *Photocopy “Song Sheet—Unit 3” for each child.*

- Gather the children around the Wonder Table, and hand out the Song Sheets.
- Play “Kind & Brave” (CD or DVD). Invite the children to sing and celebrate.

## Wonder Time

### Share a Story

**Supplies:** *CEB Bible; Class Pack—pp. 4, 10 & 23; Celebrate Wonder DVD; TV; DVD player*

**Prepare Ahead:** *Obtain the Unit 3 Wonder Story Mat (Class Pack—pp. 10 & 23) and the Wonder Story Mat Figures (Class Pack—p. 4). You will use Mary today.*

- Lay the Unit 3 Wonder Story Mat on the floor.
- Read from the Bible today’s story in John 12:1-8.

- Let a child move or place Mary on the jar of perfume on the Wonder Story Mat.
- Watch the Session 12 video on the DVD.

## Wonder with Me

*Supplies: Class Pack—pp. 8 & 25, Wonder Cube (from a previous quarter or from the Digital Pack at CokesburyKids.com), Wonder Box (containing a jar of essential oil)*

*Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 3 Faith Word poster (Class Pack). Locate a Wonder Cube.*

- Let a child roll the Wonder Cube. Direct the children to answer the question(s) about the Bible story. You can interact with the Wonder Cube as time allows.
- Then pick up the Wonder Box and place it in front of the children.

**SAY:** Today's faith word is *Courage*: choosing to act in faith, even when you are afraid.

- Wonder together:
  - Why did Mary pour perfume on Jesus' feet?
  - What do you think the perfume smelled like?
  - How did Mary show courage?
  - What do you think is inside our Wonder Box today?
- Open the Wonder Box and reveal the jar of essential oil.
- Pass the oil around, and let the children smell it.

*Tip: Check for allergies before using the essential oil.*

## Experience Wonder

### Essential Oil Guesses (Sensory)

*Supplies: Leader Guide—p. 78, jars of essential oils (various scents of your choosing), bowls (optional), sticky notes, pens, paper*

*Prepare Ahead: Check for allergies before doing this activity. Photocopy "Essential Oil Guesses" (Leader Guide) for each child. Remove labels from the essential oil jars, or pour a few drops of each oil into separate bowls. Label each oil with a number written on a sticky note. Make a list to keep track of which oil is which.*

**SAY:** In the Bible story, Mary anointed Jesus' feet with an expensive perfume. It filled the room with a powerful scent.

**WONDER:** Do you have a favorite scent? What is it?

**SAY:** We're going to explore some different scents. Each of these containers holds a different fragrance of essential oil. Let's see if you can guess the fragrances.

- Give each child a copy of "Essential Oil Guesses."
- Let the children smell the oils and write their answers.
- Go over the answers with the children. Let them call out their guess for each number before revealing the answer.

## Fill the Jar (Intergenerational)

**Supplies:** "Living Water Labels" (from earlier activity); large, empty, clear plastic jars (one per child); permanent markers; glue; gems (to send home with the jars)

**SAY:** Mary's courageous act was a big way to show God's love to Jesus.

**WONDER:** Can you think of big or small ways you can show God's love?

**SAY:** We are going to decorate courage jars. You will decorate your jar and then take it home. During the week, invite your family to look for ways people are showing courage. When they see an act of courage, have them place a gem in the jar.

- Give each child a jar.
- Have the children glue their "Living Water Label" on their jar.
- Direct the children to decorate their jar using permanent markers.
- Set the jars aside to dry.
- Have the children take home their jar and some gems.

*Tip: If you did not make the the labels earlier, let the children make their own.*

## Courage Cheers (Movement)

**Supplies:** paper, pens

- Divide the children into small groups.

**SAY:** When we have to show courage, we sometimes need other people to support us and cheer us on.

**WONDER:** Who cheers for you?

- Have each small group come up with a courage cheer. They might use an acronym, a rhyme, or rewrite a familiar cheer.
- When the groups are ready, have them take turns sharing their cheers.
- Encourage the other children to do the cheer with each group.

## Peaceful Place

*Supplies:* suggested books: "Above My Head, Beneath My Feet" by K. D. Plum and "Shoebox Sam" by Mary Brigid Barrett; quiet toys and items: essential oils, flowers, LED candles

- Locate the suggested books and quiet items, and place them in the Peaceful Place.
- Allow children who want or need a quieter activity to visit the Peaceful Place.

*Tip:* You may choose to include other quiet toys, books, or activities.

## Go in Peace

### Spiritual Practice—Exploring Courage Through Discipline

*Supplies:* Leader Guide—p. 89, "Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book" (optional), scented lip balm

*Prepare Ahead:* Check for allergies before using the scented lip balm. Photocopy "Celebration Chart" (Leader Guide) for children who have not received it yet.

- Gather the children in a circle near the Wonder Table.

**SAY:** God wants us to do courageous acts to share Jesus' love. Each of us has courage. I am going to mark your hand with a scented blessing. When you smell the scent, you can remember to have courage.

- Use the lip balm to make a cross on the back each child's hand. Each time you mark a child's hand, say the following blessing:

**SAY:** You are a child of courage.

- Send "Celebration Chart" home with children who have not received it yet.
- Encourage the children and their families to use the "Celebration Chart" and to read together the quarterly *Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book* (if purchased).

