

Dinner and perfume



Bible verses:

Mark 14:3-9

A woman with perfume for Jesus



Aim:

To consider the worship we can bring to God



Today's fruit:

Love



In our session today Jesus uses an unusual event to teach about the importance of worship.

Jesus was visiting the home of Simon* when an unexpected visitor arrived. Filling the house with a beautiful smell, the woman poured perfume on Jesus' hair. We'll discover how the disciples reacted to this and how Jesus used the situation to teach us about loving God and loving others.

[*Simon is described in the *ICB* as having 'a harmful skin disease'; other versions say that his name was 'Simon the Leper'. It must mean that he had had the disease once, but had been cured, since the law at the time forced people with the disease to live separately from everyone else. Perhaps he was known as 'Simon the Leper' because of the cure – see comment later.]

Love was shown by Jesus for Simon, and love was then shown by the woman for Jesus. His action had made an impact upon her life.

Each child will need:

- Pens/pencils, paper and a good rubber
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- To cover a sock / piece of cloth with perfume and hide it in the room
- Today's fruit sign: *Love* (or re-use the poster from Session Two)
- A large sheet of paper and pens
- Find out what *Welcome Sunday* means and consider ways to welcome new leaders – see *Pray It* (optional)

Start it

Ask:

- What is your favourite smell? Why do you love it so much?
- What is your least favourite smell? Why do you dislike it so much?

Say:

In our story today a woman fills the room with the smell of expensive perfume (compare John 12:3) as an offering to Jesus.

Play a game of *Smell and seek*. Before the children arrive, cover a sock or a piece of cloth in perfume and hide it in the room. Encourage the children to use their sense of smell to find the smelly sock. The winner is the one who uses their nose to find the smell. If they can be trusted, then ask the children to cover their eyes while you hide the smelly sock for a second go!

Sing it

Display the *Love* sign. Our song for today tells us how amazing God's love is. God wants to grow the fruit of his love within us so that we can love others.

Song

'The LOVE Song' by Cheeky Pandas TV (2:40)

Ask:

- In the song, the Pandas mention lots of things we might love. Which ones can you remember?
- How is God's love different from us loving ice cream or brussels sprouts?
- How does the song describe God's love? **Bigger and stronger and higher and wider ... there's no love greater than his.**

Say:

Our memory verse for this month reminds us that we should show others the same love that God shows to us. Let's share it together.

Memory verse

'I give you a new command: love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you.'

(John 13:34 ICB)



Tell it

Say:

Our story today takes place in the home of Simon who asked Jesus to come round for a meal. While they were eating, a surprise visitor arrived. Watch the clip to find out who it was.

Video

Jesus is anointed at Bethany by Saddleback Kids (1:55)

Say:

Jesus was visiting Simon for a meal. The Bible mentions that Simon had had a skin disease called leprosy. Many people who know lots about the Bible think that Jesus may have healed Simon of his leprosy before this visit. He must have been free of the disease when Jesus came to visit, because people with leprosy had to live outside the camp away from everyone else.

Ask:

- How do you think Simon felt about Jesus?
- The other people in the room were Jesus' disciples. How do you think they felt about Jesus?

Say:

Everybody was there to listen to what Jesus had to say. They loved him and wanted to know more about him. Then a woman came into the room and poured expensive perfume on to Jesus' head.

Ask:

In what way did the woman surprise the people at Simon's house?

Say:

In the Bible we read that the perfume was worth a year's salary. In the UK and Ireland today, the average salary is £28,000. Think about if Jesus was here today and he was visiting your house for tea. Imagine someone coming into the dining room and pouring a bottle of perfume worth £28,000 into Jesus' hair!

Ask:

- How would you react?
- Can you see why the disciples were annoyed? Explain your thoughts.
- Do you think it was because they didn't think Jesus deserved to be anointed with such expensive perfume?

Say:

The disciples loved Jesus very much, but they just couldn't understand such an extravagant gift. Sometimes people react in a negative way because they think they are doing the right

thing. The disciples thought the expensive perfume could have been sold and used to help the poor. They maybe even thought that Jesus would agree with them.

Ask:

The disciples were very unkind to the woman. How could they have shared their opinion in a more helpful way?

Say:

Even if we don't agree with someone, we can share it in a kind way instead of looking down on them and being unkind. Jesus wasn't happy with the way the disciples spoke to the woman and how they interrupted her act of worship. All she wanted to do was show Jesus how much she loved him.

Read:

'Jesus said, "Don't bother the woman. Why are you troubling her? She did a beautiful thing for me. You will always have the poor with you. You can help them whenever you want. But you will not always have me. This woman did the only thing she could do for me. She poured perfume on my body. She did this before I die to prepare me for burial. I tell you the truth. The Good News will be told to people in all the world. And in every place it is preached, what this woman has done will be told. And people will remember her."'

(Mark 14:6-9 ICB)

Ask:

- Jesus told his disciples that the perfume was used to prepare for his death. How do you think they felt after hearing this?
- How would you have reacted to that news?

Say:

It must have been a very confusing time for the disciples, but Jesus didn't speak harshly to them. Instead, he stayed calm and was able to teach the disciples in that moment.

Say:

Jesus' whole life was about loving God and loving others. He wanted us to know that worship is about bringing what we can and offering it to him. Jesus said that everyone would remember the story of this woman. He was right, as we have remembered it today and hopefully it will remind us how important worship is.



Action it

Ask the children to draw a picture of a large jug of perfume. Rather than using a preprinted handout, let's develop their artistic skills. Give each child a piece of paper and pencil and use the video clip to help them draw a large perfume jug.

Video

How to draw a jug by Azz Easy Drawing (stop at 3:20)

Discuss with the children all the different things we can offer as an act of worship to Jesus. It could be our time, our talents, or even our pocket money.

Compile a list of possible ideas on a large sheet of paper, then encourage the children to draw or write some of these ideas inside their large perfume jug. They can then share their pictures with each other.

Pray it

Say:

As we have discovered throughout our *Explore It* sessions this month, Jesus was an amazing teacher. Just like Simon, many people wanted to listen to what Jesus had to say. And maybe sometimes they forgot who they were listening to.

Say:

Jesus was the Son of God, worthy to be worshipped and praised.

Ask:

How did the woman react when she saw Jesus?

Say:

All the woman wanted to do was worship Jesus in the best way she knew how. For her, it was worth it to use all the expensive perfume to anoint Jesus' head.

Ask the children to look at the perfume jug they created earlier. Which offering is as precious to them as the woman's perfume? Ask them to share with the rest of the group.

As you finish with a song of praise and worship together, encourage the children to think about what they can offer to Jesus as an act of worship.



Song

'I Will Praise' **Simply Kids Worship** by Allstars Kids Club (3:50)

This weekend is also *Welcome Sunday* in The Salvation Army. You may have new leaders coming to your church. Find out what *Welcome Sunday* means and, just as Jesus taught with Simon and the woman, see if you can use what you have to offer a loving welcome to somebody new.

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



Dinner and perfume

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



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A woman with perfume for Jesus



Aim:

To consider the worship we can bring to God



Today's fruit:

Love



Discover

Watch the clip to discover how and why music is used in worship.

Introducing Worship to Kids (Why do we use music to worship God?) animated Bible stories for kids by Minno – Bible Stories for Kids



Play

In our session today we played a game of *Smell and seek*.

Find a spare sock or cloth at home, cover it in beautiful perfume and play the game with your family. Make sure first that you ask permission to use the sock – and the perfume!



Song for the week

'The LOVE Song' by Cheeky Pandas TV



Memory verse

'I give you a new command: love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you.'

(John 13:34 ICB)

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Children
& Youth

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A woman with perfume
for Jesus**Aim:**To find out why
Jesus gets covered in
perfume**Today's fruit:**

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Sing It

'Shine! (from the inside out)' by Nick Jackson uploaded by Tangy Crayfish (2:20)

'Holy Spirit' for children by Aji and her friends. Sing only the chorus (0:44-1:15)



Start it

What's it like when something is put or poured over you? Balls, water, blanket, toys, sand, paint, leaves, goo ...

What was fun - what was not?

Today we are going to hear about something that was poured over Jesus.



Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of Mark 14:3-9.

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- What is strange about this story?
- What would you think if you were Jesus?
- Do you have a favourite smell?
- What do you love? (perhaps a pet or a meal)
- How do you show your love?



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- This is an excellent story to act out as a group with somebody pouring the perfume over Jesus in Simon's house.
- Have different smells which the children can enjoy, eg an air freshener, some flowers, some chocolate - perhaps with their eyes closed ...
- Encourage them to show love to a trusted adult in the room.