

Transition:

The Israelite men were required to keep the Passover (Unleavened Bread Feast) and the yearly festivals of Harvest and Shelters. Did you know Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem after the Passover celebration when he was twelve? Three days later, Joseph and Mary found him at the Temple. Jesus explained that He had to be at His Father's house, but they did not understand why he said that. Jesus told the disciples to let Mary anoint his feet for his burial, and like Joseph and Mary years earlier, they did not understand what he meant by it.

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Judas Iscariot complained about Mary anointing Jesus' feet instead of selling the perfume and giving the money to the poor?
2. Was Mary thanking Jesus for raising Lazarus from the dead by anointing his feet with the costly perfume, or because she did it for his burial? Or both?

Fundamental:

Martha was more concerned about feeding the Lord, her brother, and the disciples, but Mary ministered to Jesus by anointing his feet with expensive perfume and using her hair to wipe them. Jesus is about to sacrifice his life for us (all humanity) so we can be reconciled to God through him. (2 Cor 5:18-19) Mary is not the only person to anoint the feet of Jesus. (Luke 7:36-50) Jesus forgave her many sins and said she had shown much love.

Homework/Challenge:

1. Martha wanted Mary to help her be a good host during a previous visit by Jesus. (Luke 10:38-41) How should we sacrifice talent, time, and wages?

Discipleship Tip:

Jesus asked Peter if he loved him. (John 21:15-17) Then he asked him to feed His sheep. What is God asking us to do, if we say we love Him too?

Prayer:

This week, during your prayer time, thank our Father for the living sacrifice of Jesus, giving his life so that we may have eternal life.