


the
Jesus 
Storybook
Bible
Curriculum

Washed with tears

A sinful woman anoints Jesus, from Mark 14; Luke 7; and John 12

☉ Please see the curriculum Introduction .pdf for more guidance on praying with your group and on Scripture memory.

☉ The total allotted time per lesson is 45 minutes. This is the minimum amount of time it would take to complete the whole lesson. The time can easily be extended to increase the lesson to as much as 1.5 hours. If you have more than the allocated 45 minutes, please use the extra time to extend the time for activities, to learn the memory verse, and to pray.

☉ The “Notes for Teachers on the Text” section is intended as explanation of the Bible text and advance preparation for you only; it is not expressed in terms or language the children could understand.

The Jesus Storybook Bible Curriculum
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Recap of the Previous Story

3 min. 

- ☉ Welcome the children and ask them to sit in a circle.
- ☉ Briefly recap the main points of the previous stories: “We have been learning about God’s grace. Grace is a gift and, like all gifts, it is free. We memorized a verse about this gift.”

☉ Ask them to recite together the verse they learned at home about the story. “Ephesians 2:8–9 — ‘For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast.’”

☉ To lead into the theme of today’s story, ask: “Can anyone remember what the Bible calls it when you ignore God or run away from God or make something else your god? Correct, it is called sin.”

Activity Introducing the Story

10 min. 

Aim: To expend energy and learn about sin.

Materials: None.

1. Say: “All of us sin. The Bible says that sin entangles us. To entangle means to catch. Sin catches or entangles us. Do you remember we played a game before called ‘The Entangler?’”
2. Ask the children to stand and line up against a wall. Ask one child to stand in the center of the room to be “The Entangler.”
3. Explain the game: The children will start to run from one side of the room to the other. They should try to get back and forth as many times as they can. The Entangler will try to tag/catch them. If they are caught, they should sit where they are caught and wave their arms around in order to catch others. You can get caught either by The Entangler or by anyone seated who touches you with their waving arms. Anyone who catches another player should call out “Entangled!”

4. Play the game, calling out reminders as they play; e.g., “Don’t forget to say ‘Entangled’ when you catch someone”; “Sit in the spot where you were caught”; “Wave your arms”; etc. Obviously the more people that are caught, the harder it is to get back and forth.

5. Play until there are two children left. Ask them to be the new Entanglers. Play again, this time until there are four children left. They become the new Entanglers for the final game, when everyone should easily get caught.

6. At the end of the activity, ask everyone to sit back down in the circle and then say: “The Entanglers caught you very easily. Sin easily catches us. In today’s story there are a lot of people who are entangled by sin. One person in the story knows and admits their sin. But there are some people who do not know they are entangled by sin. Let’s find out who they are and what happens.”

Join the children in the circle and announce the title of the story. Read aloud pages 280–285 from *The Jesus Storybook Bible* or listen to CD3 track 7.

Notes for Teachers on the Text

Three things to note about what the woman did for Jesus in this story:

☉ It was extravagantly costly. The ointment (perfume) was extremely expensive—300 denarii (the Greek text reads), which was equivalent to the entire annual wage of an average worker. In all probability, such a valuable commodity was a family heirloom, passed down like jewelry or some other valuable possession. Although it was normal to use some ointment on the feet of guests and travelers, her action was nevertheless astonishing. She felt that nothing less than her most precious possession would do as a way to express the magnitude of her gratitude, love, and commitment to Jesus.

☉ It was self-forgetful. In those days, her actions would be considered scandalous. They defied convention. But because her love centered on Jesus, she was not in the least self-conscious.

☉ It was wholehearted. There is deep emotion expressed here. Her act was intimate and personal. The lavishness of her generosity, the boldness of her deed came from the deep love she felt for Jesus.

Some of those watching complained that her action was extravagant and wrong. The criticism seems fair on the surface. Imagine you see a friend spending her entire year's salary on a gift to someone. Surely you might say: "This is wrong. If you can afford to part with that much money, you should spread it around to a lot of worthy causes." This woman's gesture appeared "over the top" and disproportionate.

Jesus defends the woman with a remarkable statement: "Her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown" (Luke 7:47).

In sending Jesus Christ as the atoning sacrifice for sin, God brings us back into relationship with him. Jesus' death brings an end both to sin's condemning and influential powers. Through Christ's death, we are granted undeserved forgiveness. Our gratitude and astonishment at this gift is directly related to the depth of our understanding regarding the seriousness of sin. To the extent that we think less of the seriousness of sin and its effect on us (it renders us dead to God, unable to respond to him, under the full fury of his wrath, and it made us his enemies), we will think less of the magnitude of God's love.

For example, if we have a debt of five dollars canceled, we might say, "Thanks." If we have a debt of five hundred dollars canceled, knowing that it cost the individual something, we almost certainly will say, "Thank you," and send a note of appreciation. If someone cancels a debt of five million dollars, we will most certainly make fools of ourselves trying to express our gratitude for such generosity. This explains why the woman poured perfume and tears on Jesus' feet and wiped them with her hair. It also explains Jesus' subsequent comment: "Her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little" (Luke 7:47).

Understanding the Story

15 min. 

Aim: To understand more about sin.

Materials: 2 large cards that have “Answer 1” written on them and 2 large cards that have “Answer 2” written on them; crayons; copies of the handout (the last page of this document).

1. At the end of the story, say: “The important people in this story do not know they are entangled by sin. But who in the story knows and admits their sin? Correct, the woman.”
2. Announce that you are going to play a game about the story. Assign half the circle as team 1 and the other half as team 2. Give each team one card that says “Answer 1” on it and one that says “Answer 2” on it.
3. Explain the game (you have played this game before, but it is always good to repeat the rules): You will call out a question and then two possible answers. Each team must decide together which is the right answer. You will give them 3 seconds to decide, and then say “Go!” One person from the team should run with the answer to the center of the circle (they should take turns doing this).
4. Read aloud the questions and answers below; e.g., “Why was Jesus with the important leader and his important friends? Was it Answer 1 — Because they wanted to give Jesus a red hoodie or, Answer 2 — Because they wanted to have dinner with Jesus?” Then give the teams 3 seconds to decide on the answer before saying “Go!” This allows you to read both answers before the teams start to talk or run. Comment on their choice before moving on to the next question.

QUESTION	ANSWER 1	ANSWER 2
Why was Jesus with the important leader and his important friends?	Because they wanted to give Jesus a red hoodie	Because they wanted to have dinner with Jesus
Why did everyone know the woman?	Because she was a sinner	Because she cut their hair
What was the woman carrying?	A jar of expensive perfume	A jar of expensive pickles
What was special about the perfume?	The woman wore it every day	It was the woman’s treasure
What did the woman do first? *	She started to cry	She started to sing
Her tears fell onto Jesus’ feet and she kissed his feet and dried them with what? *	A towel	Her hair
What did she do with the perfume?	She poured the perfume on Jesus’ feet	She poured the perfume on the important people’s feet
Who thought pouring the perfume on Jesus’ feet was a waste? *	Jesus	The important people

QUESTION	ANSWER 1	ANSWER 2
The people thought Jesus should not be kind to this woman. Why? *	Because she was a sinner	Because she kept the rules
Jesus was kind to this woman. Why? *	Because she knew she was a sinner	Because she knew she kept the rules
Did the important people know they were sinners and that they needed Jesus to forgive them?	Yes	No
Did the woman know she was a sinner and that she needed Jesus to forgive her?	Yes	No
Why did the woman pour her expensive perfume on Jesus?	She knew she was a sinner, and she knew Jesus forgave her sins, and so she wanted to give him her treasure	She knew she was a sinner, and so she wanted to earn Jesus' forgiveness by giving him her treasure
This woman loved Jesus. How did the important people feel about Jesus? *	They were glad a sinner who was lost had come to Jesus	They were angry and wanted to kill Jesus
Does Jesus know the important leaders want to kill him?	Yes	No

Note: * Indicates questions to skip if you are running out of time.

5. At the end of the activity, put the cards away and say: "Jesus knew the important leaders were angry and that they wanted to kill him. They were angry with Jesus because they thought that only God can forgive sin. Stand up if you think they were right. Stand up if you think they were wrong. You are all correct. They are right because it is true that only God can forgive sin. But they are wrong to be angry with Jesus because he is God and so he can forgive sin."

6. Give each child a copy of the handout and a crayon. Say: "You can see on your paper a picture of the important people from this story and some things they might have been thinking. Some of the vowels are missing. Fill in the missing letters; you have a choice of five — A, E, I, O, and U. You can work in pairs if you like. You have 1 minute. Ready?"

7. You may want to write the five vowels on a blackboard to help the children. Give them 1 minute to fill in the missing vowels, and then ask someone to read each of the sentences aloud.

For larger groups: You may want to divide up the circle into more teams so they can discuss the answers in smaller groups. In this case, you will need to make a set of "Answer 1"/"Answer 2" cards for each team.

Drawing the Story to a Close

1 min. 

Say: “We are all sinners and we all need God to forgive us. The important people in this story think they are not sinners and that they do not need Jesus.”

Say: “The woman in this story knows she is a sinner, and because she knows Jesus forgives her sins, she loves Jesus and gives him her treasure.”

Jesus in the Story

2 min. 

Ask: “What did we discover about Jesus from today’s story?”

Get a few children to share their answers aloud, commenting appropriately; then ask everyone to write an answer in the space on their handout.

Praying about the Story

5 min. 

Pray aloud, asking God to help you and the children not to be like the important people, who thought they weren’t sinners and that they didn’t need Jesus.

Ask the children to think of something they want to tell God they are sorry for (e.g., lying, not being kind to a sibling, etc.). Ask them to pray, telling God they are sorry.

A Verse from the Story to Learn at Home

2 min. 

☉ Introduce the verse: “Jesus knew the important leaders wanted to kill him. Jesus knew he had come to die. He told his disciples how and why he would be killed. Our verse to memorize is from one of these times where Jesus tells them about his death.”

☉ Announce the verse: “So, your verse to learn at home is Mark 8:31 — ‘The Son of Man must be killed and after three days rise again.’”

☉ Read the verse out loud together as a group. Explain that “Son of Man” is just a way that Jesus refers to himself.

☉ Remind the children to give the handout to their parents and to memorize the verse for next time.

That
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is a

s__nn__r!



Only God can
f__rg__v__

s__ns!

© Jesus in the Story



What did you discover about Jesus from this story?



Jesus

© A Verse from the Story to Learn at Home

The Son of Man must be killed and after three days rise again. (Mark 8:31)



Notes for parents: From the story we learned about the woman who gave up an important treasure because of her love for Jesus. We also learned that we are all sinners and need God to forgive us. Please help your child to memorize the verse and the Scripture reference for next time. Please review with them the place of the book of Mark, using the diagram above. www.jesusstorybookbible.com