

DESERVES HONOR AND RESPECT

Mary Anoints Jesus - Small Group

God is awesome

He has a big plan for me

God wants to be my closest friend

THE ESSENTIALS: GOD THE FATHER

Main point: God is so awesome that He deserves our honor and respect.

FOR LEADERS ONLY

God is holy. The word holiness means set apart, different, beyond our understanding. It captures the idea of being sacred and worthy of honor and respect. Even though God can speak to us and relate to us where we are, He still deserves all the honor and respect. The Bible is filled with stories which illustrate this point. When Mary anointed Jesus' feet, some of the Pharisees and religious leaders didn't understand because they didn't think that Jesus was worthy of the utmost honor we can give Him. Through this lesson, the children will understand that God deserves our admiration and reverence. Our actions should honor Him. With this understanding, they will see how the awesomeness of God affects the way we live. Others will notice the difference in the way they speak of and treat the Lord. This could open the door for them to share about the greatness of their God.

OFFERING

Ask the children to place any offering that they brought in the specified location.

PRAISE

Sing one of the songs that you have been singing in the large group session together as a group. Ask to use the poster board with the words written on it to hold up for the children while you are singing.

DECLARATION

The declaration is an opportunity for everyone to declare how the material that they learned today affects what they believe. Before class, prepare the declaration on a poster board so that you can all say it together.

Let's say our declaration all together:

suggested
ages:

God deserves honor and praise. I respect Him and honor Him in the way that I live.

5 - 6 **MEMORY VERSE SHOUT OUT**

The point of this game is to review the memory verse in a fun manner. The game can be played many times over. We encourage you to incorporate competition somehow into learning the memory verse. Have a boys versus girls competition. See the example below.

Our memory verse for this week is **To... the only God be honor and glory forever and ever. 1 Timothy 1:17**

Okay, let's practice it all together. **To... the only God be honor and glory forever and ever. 1 Timothy 1:17**

We're going to have a contest to see who can say the memory verse the loudest. I want them to hear you in the room next door! Let me hear the boys say it as loud as you can!

To... the only God be honor and glory forever and ever. 1 Timothy 1:17

Wow, good job. Now, girls, do you think you can beat them? I want to hear what you've got. Okay girls, all together: **To... the only God be honor and glory forever and ever. 1 Timothy 1:17**

suggested
ages:

Great job! I think that the _____ won this week. This week we are going find out that God is so awesome that He deserves our honor and respect.

5 - 8 **THE STORY OF PABLO'S MOM**

This story will help the children understand the application of what honor and respect look like in real life.

MATERIALS NEEDED

*white board
marker*

Say

Wow, what a great story about Mary's gift for Jesus! Mary gave Jesus a *huge* present because she loved Him and wanted to show how much He meant to her. Now I'm going to tell you a story about another person who does great things. This story is about Pablo's mom. I want you to pay close attention to the story because afterwards I'm going to ask you about some nice things we can say about Pablo's mom. Are you ready? Okay, here is the story!

The Story of Pablo's Mom

There once was a boy named Pablo, and he was probably the *messiest* boy who has ever lived. In the morning he never made his bed, so his sheets were always crumpled and on the floor. But Pablo's mom would always come into his room just after he left for school. "That's my Pablo," she would think to herself. Then she would make his bed, carefully tucking the sheets under the mattress. She would pick up Pablo's toys and stuffed animals off of the floor and place them neatly on his bed where they would wait for him to come home from school.

At lunch Pablo always chewed with his mouth open. "Mom, you will never believe what they taught me at school today!" he would shout, and flecks of food would fly all over the table. Sauce would drip down his chin, and Pablo would grab the edge of his shirt and wipe up the dribbles. Pablo's mother would listen to his stories and laugh at his jokes. "That's my Pablo," she would think as she wiped up the bits of food off the table and later washed his sauce-stained shirt.

Pablo had a dog named Max who was even *dirtier* than Pablo. Max would roll in the mud and tip over every trash can in the house. When he was thirsty, he would even drink out of the toilet! One time Pablo forgot to take Max for his walk, and Max couldn't hold it any longer. He left a big yellow puddle in the middle of the kitchen! Instead of cleaning it up, Pablo went outside to play with his friends. "That's my Pablo," Pablo's mom thought as she mopped up Max's accident and gave him a much-needed bath.

Sometimes Pablo would come home from soccer practice covered in dirt and dust. He would stomp through the house leaving brown, muddy footprints wherever he went. His mother would wash the cuts on his skinned knees and kiss them before putting on a bandaid. "That's my Pablo," Pablo's mom would think as she mopped up his muddy footprints and washed his dirty uniform.

At night Pablo would fall asleep with his mouth open, snoring as loud as an airplane! Pablo's mom would tuck the covers under his chin and brush the hair off of his forehead. "I love my Pablo," she would think, and then she would kiss his forehead goodnight.

Drive it home

Isn't Pablo's mom nice? Let's think of some ways that Pablo's mom was nice to Pablo.

Write ideas as children say them.

You guys are so smart! Now this is a little bit tougher. Think about Pablo. What are some ways that you think Pablo could be nicer to his mom?

Write ideas as children say them.

Great job! Now what are some nice things we can say about Pablo's mom?

Write ideas on whiteboard.

Wow. I am so impressed with you! Did you know that there's someone who loves you who is just as nice as Pablo's mom? It's God! And God loves it when we say nice things about him, just like all those nice things you just said about Pablo's mom! It is a really good thing when we say nice things about the people we love. I want you all to think about someone in your life that you love a whole bunch. It can be a parent, a relative, a teacher, a coach--anyone who is nice to you like Pablo's mom. Can you think of someone? Great! Now we are going to make something that says nice things and give it to that person. We're going to say the same type of things like we said about Pablo's mom to the people who matter in our lives!

suggested
ages:

7 + **MEMORY VERSE RELAY**

The idea of this activity is to provide a fun opportunity for the children to practice the memory verse. This activity will reinforce the memory verse, helping kids to memorize it.

MATERIALS NEEDED

large sheet of paper for each team (butcher paper or poster board)

marker or pen for each group

a line for each group that the team cannot pass until they have received the marker

Do

*Study this activity before class! Hang up Paper on the walls number each paper for each team. Split kids up into two teams (or more if desired) and line them up on the opposite wall of the paper. Pass out a marker/pen to each group. Instruct the group on what they will be doing (see **Say**). Go over the memory verse several times with the groups all together.*

Say

Today we are going to have a race that is going to test your speed and your team work. Who is ready to race? Here's how it works. Each team will have a paper on the opposite wall. Your goal is to work as a team to be the first to finish writing the entire memory verse on the paper. However, you only have one pen, and each team member can only write one word at a time. Also only one team member can be at the paper at the same time. So, here's how it will work.

The first member of your team will run to the paper, write the first word of the memory verse on the paper, and then run back to the team. The second member cannot cross the line until the first team member has passed the pen to him. Then that team member has to write the next word of the memory verse on the paper. Your team members continue running to the wall and writing words until you have finished writing the memory verse on the wall. Whichever team writes the entire memory verse out the fastest wins.

Wrap up

Wow, you guys did great. You all are so smart and so fast. Remember God is Holy and deserves all the honor we can give Him. This week, we will honor God by telling Him how awesome He is. Let's all say the memory verse together one more time!

suggested
ages:

10 + **ENCOURAGEMENT BRAINSTORM**

The idea behind this activity is to have kids think about how their words and actions can show respect or disrespect. In the same way that kids can show respect or disrespect to each other, their words and actions demonstrate their attitude towards God. During this activity, the children will think about ways to encourage the people around them.

MATERIALS NEEDED

dry erase board or large poster board
markers
discussion questions
certificates

Do

Read the entire lesson before teaching the class. If you are using poster board, tape it to wall where everyone can see it.

Say

I'm so glad that you are all here today. We just heard an awesome story about a woman who honored a very special man. Now I want to see what you remember from the story.

Start a discussion using these questions. The kids may have other responses than the ones listed:

- Who were the main characters in the story? (Mary and Jesus)
- What did Mary do for Jesus? (She anointed his feet with oil).
- What did the perfume represent? (A lot of money, what Mary had to live off of).
- Why was Mary nervous? (It was a lot of money, she could do other things with the money).
- Why do you think that Mary wanted to do something so extravagant? (She wanted to show him honor, she was thankful for what He had done for her).
- How did Jesus respond when Mary anointed his feet? (Jesus praised Mary. He said that she did something wonderful).
- How do you think Jesus felt when Mary anointed his feet? (Important, loved, honored)
- How do you think Mary felt when Jesus said that she had done something wonderful? (Loved, peaceful)

So we can see through the story that Mary did something extravagant to show her love for Jesus. She honored and respected him through her actions. Just like Mary, we have the opportunity to honor the people around us. We probably will not pour perfume on anyone's feet, but there are other ways that we can honor the people around us. One

thing we can do is to tell people why we appreciate them. Think of someone that you admire or appreciate.

Pause a moment to give them a chance to think.

It could be a friend, a teacher, an aunt or uncle, or your parents. Let's write a few things on the board (or paper) that we can do or say to encourage the people around us.

Let the kids think of different things they say. If they are having trouble getting started, ask them what they like about a friend or a teacher. For example, my teacher is very patient. My mom works really hard. My friend makes me laugh.

After they have listed some ideas, ask them to think of one person in their life that they want to encourage this week. Tell them that they are going to fill in a certificate to give to that person. Ask them to think of something specific that they can say or do to encourage that person.

Pass out the certificates and have the children work on filling them out for the rest of the class. Help the children as needed.

Wrap up

You guys thought of some great things. When we encourage the people around us, we show them that we value them. We should have the same attitude towards God. He deserves all of our respect and honor. In the same way that you spent time thinking about nice things to say about other people in your life, we can tell God all the things we love about Him. Don't forget to give your certificates to the special people in your life this week. See you next time!

PRAYER

Thank you, Father God that You have done so many good things for us. We are full of thankfulness for all You have done! Just as Mary honored you with the best gift she had, we want to honor You with our best words and thanks. Thank you for being so good to us. We ask You to help us as we tell others this week how good you have been to us. We love you, God. In Jesus' name we pray.