

DESERVES HONOR AND RESPECT

Mary Anoints Jesus - Large 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 deserves honor.

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 our 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.

GETTING STARTED

This intro is designed for the helper to be a puppet.

Storyteller and helper (puppet) enter, helper is visibly distraught but does not want to talk about it. He's being very immature and dramatic.

STORYTELLER

Hey _____ (*fill in the name of the puppet*), what's up? You look a little down.

HELPER

It's nothing.

STORYTELLER

Ok, you just don't seem like your usual happy, talkative self.

Helper lets out a very long sigh while moping some more.

HELPER

No, don't worry about me. I'm fine.

STORYTELLER

Ok _____, you have to stop it right now. You're acting like someone stole your ice cream cone! What's wrong?

Helper sighs deeply.

HELPER

Well, I don't know. It's just that I have something that I really want to do but I don't know how to do it.

STORYTELLER

Maybe I can help. I mean that's what I'm here for - to help.

HELPER

Oh no, it's too big for you. If I can't figure it out, then you *definitely* won't be able to.

Storyteller responds very sarcastically.

STORYTELLER

Oh really?

The helper emphasizes each word more and more.

HELPER

Yeah. It's too big... even.... for.... you!

STORYTELLER

Ok, then I'll just leave.

HELPER

Whoa, whoa - wait wait wait. _____, I am sorry! I didn't mean to be mean. I really do need your help. Please?

STORYTELLER

Okay, just tell me what it is.

HELPER

Well, there's this person in my life that is just awesome. My uncle, is really awesome and has always been there for me. He helped me learn how to ride my bike and even took me to a soccer game for my birthday! Yesterday someone told me that if I want to thank Him, I should to honor him. Honor him? I don't even know what that means! So, I'm stuck. I don't know how to honor my uncle. I don't even know what honor means.

STORYTELLER

Hmmmm... Honor, that's a big word. I'll tell you what - let's go to the best place to find answers to tough questions, the Bible! Let's see what the Bible has to say about this.

HELPER

Really? The Bible? Why would we look there?

STORYTELLER

Are you kidding? The Bible has so many answers inside it _____ (*fill in the name of the helper*)!

MEMORY VERSE

STORYTELLER

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

We encourage you to incorporate competition somehow into learning the memory verse. Have a guys versus girls competition or a younger versus older kids competition, etc. See the example below.

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 sanctuary! 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**

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.

BIBLE LESSON

Storyteller: Note that the following Bible lesson has been organized into four main points (**IN BOLD CAPS**) to help you present it in a memorable manner. The lesson concludes with the **APPLICATION** to help make it applicable for the kids in a real life way.

REMEMBERING WHAT HE HAD DONE

Mary was so nervous as she searched through the old wooden trunk, looking for the special jar! She still couldn't believe that she was really going to do it.

As she searched, she thought back to how good Jesus had been to her and her family. She remembered the kind words that He had spoken into her life. She remembered words filled with life, words filled with so much love. For so long she had wondered how she could thank Him.

And then... She found it! Buried deep within the trunk, underneath the old, musty clothes and cracked dishes, she found the jar. She grabbed the precious flask. The smooth, beautiful stone jar felt warm in her hands. She could almost smell the fragrant perfume. He had been so good to her. He was awesome and worth everything she had. She was so glad to have found a way to thank Him. He was the most important thing.

She walked out of her room and into the long, open hallway, gazing at the tall ceilings as her sandal straps quietly struck the tile. She thought about how different her life was now. Ever since He had come into her life, her life had changed in ways she could have never imagined. She would never be the same. She didn't feel angry anymore, and she hadn't yelled at anyone for a long time. Now she walked happily, knowing that God's plan for her life was a great one. He had big plans for her. Her life was on a different course now, a better course, a good course. Her heart was filled with service, love and a new sense of adventure with God. She had a plan and purpose which she never had before.

SECOND THOUGHTS

The voices grew louder and louder with each step Mary took. The soft glow of the oil lamps bounced off the hallway walls. Each of her steps became slower and slower until she stopped, frozen in place. She was holding _____ (*fill in a monetary value representative of the average annual salary of someone in your region*) worth of perfume in her hands! It was almost everything she owned, her entire savings! It represented years and years of her life.

Could she just give it away? Could she part with _____ (*again, that annual average salary*)? She began to have second thoughts. So many things floated through her mind. She thought of all the things she could do with the money, all the clothes she could buy, how she could take care of her parents. She had saved for a long time to be able to buy the perfume, and Jesus would never know if she kept it for herself. She was about to take a step back when her brother appeared behind her. He gave her a warm squeeze and kissed her on the forehead.

Before she could even say a word, her brother was walking away towards the noise and voices. She watched him saunter off to deliver bread to all the guests. She watched him enter the far room, bringing the room to laughter as soon as he entered. He always knew how to put people at ease.

As she leaned softly against the cold stone wall, tears formed on her cheek. Her brother's laugh brought back a flood memories. She remembered the day, and the tears, when she felt she had no hope and nothing more to live for. She remembered

falling down at Jesus' feet sobbing, wishing He had arrived earlier. She remembered that day He brought her brother back from the dead and their family received new life and a new reason to live. She had seen the greatest miracle of her life. It was so awesome, and she was so thankful!

Her life had been transformed because of Jesus. He was such a good friend. He was worth everything she had. He was the most important thing.

AT HIS FEET

Wiping away the tears and pushing away from the wall, she took a step and then another. She soon found herself purposefully striding down the hallway and towards the noise, voices, laughter, and light. Pushing away all anxiety and fear, she quietly and entered the room.

All the laughter and talking immediately stopped. All eyes were on her. It was as if they knew something important was about to happen. She slowly looked up to see Jesus reclining on a chair. As her eyes met His, she felt love and gratitude rushing through her body. She wept. She couldn't stop, He had been so good to her. He had done so much. He was worth everything she had, and He was the most important thing. Her life was never going to be the same because of the hope Jesus had given her.

Without thinking she walked to where He was seated and fell at His feet. Tears were streaming down her face as she tucked her hair behind her ears. She pulled out the stone jar of perfume, and standing up, she poured it over His head. The fragrance filled the room with the most beautiful aroma any of them had ever smelled.

She couldn't take her eyes off His. Someone said something mean in the background and immediately fear crept up in her. "It was too much. It was too expensive. Jesus didn't like it," she thought. She crumpled to the floor. She had made a mistake. She knew it. Before another terrible thought could enter her head, she flinched, getting ready to run out of the room. And then Jesus spoke.

"No." He said. "Do not laugh. Do not judge. What this woman has done will always be remembered. She has honored me."

Her heart immediately calmed. She looked up into His warm and gracious eyes. Tears of joy and thankfulness welled up in her heart. He smiled down at her, with the warmest smile she had ever received. She had honored Him with the best she had. He knew it. And Jesus loved it.

APPLICATION

This story comes straight out of the Bible. It is a great story because it teaches us about honoring God. Mary is the name of the woman who honored Jesus. Mary had a very expensive and high quality perfume, and she gave it to Jesus to thank Him for the great

blessing He had been in her life. Mary blessed and honored Jesus for the way He had changed her life. She thanked Him in the best way she could.

God is awesome and He has done great things for each of us. In just the same way, He deserves the best thanks we can give Him. There are many things we can do to honor and thank God just like Mary thanked Jesus. We can honor Him with our lives by telling Him thank you or by telling Him how great and awesome He is.

Everybody likes to hear how good and great they are. God is the same way. He loves to hear you thank Him and talk about how good He has been to you. Let's work this week to give God thanks and tell Him and others how great He has been to us and how awesome He is.

WRAP UP

STORYTELLER

You see _____ (*fill in the name of the helper*), one of the ways that Mary honored Jesus was by giving Him something that she really treasured.

HELPER

Ooooooh, so that's what honor is? Wow, I need to honor God even more than I need to honor my uncle. He's done even more for me. Hmmm... Can I borrow some money? I'm going to buy something very expensive for God!

STORYTELLER

That's a nice thought, _____, but God doesn't need you to buy something expensive in order to honor Him. In fact, you don't need to buy Him a thing at all to honor Him!

HELPER

Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa whoa.... (*The helper repeats this too long, so that the storyteller just stares at him.*)

The helper pauses and looks at the storyteller, and then starts again.

HELPER

....whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa.

The storyteller smiles, overwhelmed and interrupts.

STORYTELLER

Oh come on!

So what you're saying is that I don't need to buy something... Then what can I do to honor God if I don't buy anything?

STORYTELLER

There are so many things you can *do* for God that honor Him. You can tell Him how great He is or tell someone else about the great things He has done for you.

HELPER

You mean say something like, “Thanks God for my breakfast this morning?”

The storyteller turns to address the audience.

STORYTELLER

Yes! Kids, can any of you help _____ find some other nice things to say to God or about God?

Storyteller lets 3 volunteers say nice things.

STORYTELLER

Great! Thanks, kids. God is so awesome and so holy. One of the best ways that we can honor Him is through our words. We can tell God how good and great He is! He loves it when we do that!

HELPER

Hmm... Okay. I think I understand. I can honor God by telling my friends how great He is or what I learned about Him today. I can honor my uncle by thanking him for how cool, awesome, and kind he has been to me? That is a way of honoring him?

STORYTELLER

Yep, that’s one of the many ways that we can honor people in our lives. And it’s also how we can honor God!

MAKE IT PERSONAL (Optional)

Share a story from your own life when you were honored or gave honor to someone else. Share how it made you feel to either give or receive honor. Make sure you tie it back to God at the end.

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:

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

APPLICATION

God is awesome, God has an awesome plan for each and every one of you, and God wants to be your best friend. God is so awesome that He deserves all honor and respect. We can honor God by telling Him how great and awesome He is. We show we respect Him by the way we speak about Him when we are with others. Just like Mary remembered how good Jesus had been to her, this week we're going to remember how good God has been to each of us. Each of us is going to tell someone how great God has been to us and God is going to love it! He is pleased when we honor and respect Him.

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.

SALVATION PRAYER

You may use this prayer or substitute in the prayer that your church uses, but do be sure to be consistent in praying the same prayer every week. There are many benefits to this including that children will learn the prayer and be able to lead their friends to Christ in confidence.

Without anyone moving, everyone keep your heads bowed and eyes closed, I want you to listen to me. There may be some of you who heard today about God and thought to yourself, I don't know God. I want to know God more. If that describes you and you've never asked Jesus to be Lord of your life, we're going to pray a prayer in just a moment and I want you to pray with us. Let's pray.

Dear God, I know I need a Savior and I know I can't save myself. Jesus, I believe You are the Son of God. I believe You died on the cross for my sins and God raised You from the dead. Right now, I say that you are my Lord and my Savior, as the one who forgives me and restores me. Thank you, Jesus my past is forgiven. I have a relationship with you. I am a new creation in Christ because I've said yes to You.

If you just prayed that prayer for the first time, that was the best decision you'll ever make. If you just prayed that prayer for the first time, I want you to raise your hand. We're going to hand you a card and we want you to fill it out with your name, your parents' names, and your information so that we can pray for you.

WORSHIP

Mary understood that Jesus deserved the best that she could give Him. She gave the very best she could to Jesus to show her love for Him. Now we're going to give God our best by worshipping Him and telling Him how great He is.

WRAP UP

LEADER

We have had a fantastic time learning about God these past few weeks. We have learned that is so awesome that He deserves the best we can offer. He deserves our honor and respect. We also learned that God is the one and only true God, that He knows everything, that He is all powerful. God is so awesome. What is God?

KIDS

Awesome!

LEADER

You got it. As you go through your week this week, remember that God is an awesome God worthy of your honor. Speak well of Him and tell Him all you love about Him this week. See you next week!