



TREASURE OR WASTE?

Young Preschool • #NT12 • February 15, 2026

Concept

Jesus is the best treasure.

Goal

The children will learn that Mary loved Jesus with all her heart, while others limited their love for Him. They will be challenged to accept His love and to love Him with all their hearts.

Passage

John 12:1-8

Key verse: "... where your treasure is, your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
Introduction/Lesson: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Jolly Pirate treasure box</i>• <i>Small stuffed animal or other small toy</i>• <i>A small picture book (like an Adam the Raccoon book)</i>• <i>Small ball</i>• <i>Paper towel</i>• <i>Perfume in spray bottle</i>• <i>A Bible</i>• <i>1 copy of each picture from craft for treasure box</i>	Learning Activity #1: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Printed page with star, heart, cross, Jesus/lamb, 1/child• Jesus stickers, 1/child• Markers

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the shaded areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

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Those who followed Jesus' ministry were polarized to further extremes by the event recorded in John 12:1-8, Mark 14:3-11 and Matthew 26:6-16. The scene occurred two days before Passover during the last week of Jesus' life, in Bethany at the home of Simon the (former) leper. Mary, Martha and Lazarus (whom Jesus raised) were all at this dinner. They had all experienced Jesus' love in miraculous ways. Mary responded to Jesus' love by anointing His feet with precious oil.

It was customary to anoint the head and feet of honored guests with oil after washing as a sign of love and respect. In other contexts, anointing signified chosen of God and was used to name priests. "Spices and ointments were quite costly because they had to be imported. Frequently they were used as an investment because they occupied a small space, were portable, and were easily negotiable in the open market. Mary's offering was valued at three hundred denarii (v.5), approximately a year's wages for an ordinary workingman. Perhaps it represented her life savings. She presented it as an offering of love and gratitude, prompted by Jesus' restoration of her brother to the family circle. Wiping his feet with her hair was a gesture of utmost devotion and reverence. The penetrative fragrance of the ointment that filled the house told all present of her sacrificial gift.... His remonstrance over the gift of the ointment revealed that he [Judas] had a sharp sense of financial values and no appreciation of human values. Pouring the ointment on Jesus seemed to him an economic waste. Mary, on the contrary, was the only one who was sensitive to the impending death of Jesus and who was willing to give a material expression of her esteem for him. ... The contrast of the attitude of Mary with that of Judas is unmistakable. Mary offered her best to Jesus in sacrificial love; Judas was coldly utilitarian." [1]

This polarizing event showed Mary as a lover of Jesus who held back nothing to honor Him. Others in the Mark account paid lip service to Jesus' agenda by the suggestion of giving to the poor because they resented Mary's lavish gift.

[1]Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 9, Frank E. Gaebelin, editor, 1981, Zondervan Publishing Co., p. 125.

Set Up

Incorporation Lg. Group

Introduction Lg. Group

Transition

Lesson Lg. Group

The day of class – [1] Put the stuffed animal, picture book, small ball, paper towel, Bible and large copies of star, heart, cross, Jesus/lamb and perfume in the treasure box. [2] Find some objects in the room and hide them for the Treasure Hunt.

Activity Stations:

- **Treasure Hunt**

- **Instructions:** Tell the children what objects are hidden and have them search for them.

Instructions: Put treasure box in front of the children. Take the items out as you talk about them.

Jesus said, "... where your treasure is, your heart will be also." (Point to the treasure box) Do you know what this is? This is a treasure box. Inside are things that children love very much. They are treasures. Do you have a special stuffed animal/toy? Do you have a special book you like to look at, or how about a ball? We all have things that we treasure. Today we are going to learn about a lady in the Bible named Mary who had a treasure.

Listen to see if you can guess what Mary loved most—her treasure or Jesus.

"Mary's Gift"

Instructions: Follow the instructions in parentheses as you tell the story. Mary had a treasure. (Pull the bottle of perfume out of the box.) It cost a lot of money. (Show empty pockets.) She took the treasure and poured it on Jesus' feet. (Use paper towel to "clean" your feet, then spray perfume on towel and pretend to wipe on your feet) She then wiped Jesus feet, not with a towel, but with her hair. She made the whole house smell wonderful. She gave Jesus her treasure. Her friends thought she made a very bad choice. Did Mary make a bad choice? (No.) She gave her special treasure to Jesus because she loved Him so much. Jesus told His friends, "... where your treasure is, your heart will be also." Mary's treasure was Jesus because Jesus is the best treasure. Her heart loved Him more than anything.

Let's look in the treasure box to see what else is in here. Here's a Bible. We can learn everything we need to know about Jesus right here in this book. Here's a star that says, "I am special to Jesus." We are each special to Jesus. We are His treasure! Here's another wonderful treasure—a heart that says, "Jesus loves me." Oh, look at this one! It's a cross that says, "Jesus died for my bad choices." He died so we can be His friends. What a wonderful friend! What a treasure! And here are a lamb and a shepherd that says, "Jesus cares for me like a shepherd." Jesus will take care of us wherever we are, whatever we are doing, all the time. WOW! Jesus is the best treasure. He takes care of us and gives us everything we need.

Lesson Continued Lg. Group

The Bible tells us that Jesus is the best treasure. He is a better treasure than any toy, better than anything. Jesus loves us more than anything. He even died on the cross because He loved us so much and wants all of us to go to heaven to live with Him when we die. God says we have to tell Him that we are sorry for our bad choices and ask Jesus to come into our hearts. When Jesus comes into our hearts He helps us love Him more than toys.

Let's pray. We will talk to Jesus and thank Him that He loves us so much that He died on the cross for us. Let's ask Him to help us love Him more than anything else because He is the best treasure.

Transition

Let's make a craft to remind us that God has given us wonderful treasures, but Jesus is the best treasure.

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

Craft – Treasure

- **Instructions:** Give each child a printed page and a Jesus sticker. Color the picture. Put the Jesus sticker on the picture. Write their names on the bottom of the box.

As the children work, talk with them about the things on the page. They are the best treasures because they tell us how much Jesus loves us and wants to be our best friend. He wants to take care of us and help us. Jesus is the best treasure.

Treasure Hunt

- **Instructions:** Do another treasure hunt with the children who would like to participate or have the children hide things for each other to find.

Learning Activity#2 Sm. Group

Treasure or Waste?

Concept: Jesus is worthy of total commitment

Passage: Jn. 12:1-8

Key Verse: Matt. 6:21 "... where your treasure is, your heart will be also."

(Bible Guy and Mrs. Bible Guy enter with a bag of "treasures." Mr. B.G. is wearing a baseball cap.)

Mrs. B.G.: I know it will be hard, but it's worth it.

B.G.: I agree. I would give anything I have to Jesus.

sees kids

Oh, Hi kids! You'll never guess where we're going!

Mrs. B.G.: We are going to visit Jesus! We heard that he will be coming to a town a long way away, but we want to see him and spend time with him so we are going to make that long trip.

B.G.: Yea, I'm going to miss the biggest game of the season to go there.

Mrs. B.G.: And I won't be able to have my birthday party because we'll be on our trip. We also won't be able to take our vacation to the Sea of Galilee this year. But we know that Jesus is more special than a baseball game or a party or vacation...

B.G.: This is a bag of our most favorite things—our treasures. We want to give Jesus these things because we love him so much. We want to show him that being with him is worth more than any treasure we have.

Go through the bag, item by item. Hold each item up and ask the kids, "Is Jesus worth _____? YES!"

Mrs. B.G.: We were wondering... if you had a chance to see Jesus in person, what would you want to give him?

Wait for kids to answer

B.G.: Well, you know what? Jesus wants to give you a treasure. He wants to forgive you for all your wrong choices and come live in your heart.

Mrs. B.G.: If you have asked Jesus into your heart, you have a great treasure. It is the most special treasure you can ever have.

B.G.: You can spend time with Jesus, too. Do you know how?

Wait for answers

When you come here and hear about the Bible or your mom or dad reads the Bible to you at home, that is spending time with Jesus. Or maybe you spend time talking to Jesus ...praying?

Mrs. B.G.: Would you sometimes rather watch a video or play, but instead you come here? Maybe sometimes you have to have a babysitter or you have to stay up late so your parents can go and learn about Jesus. That's because Jesus is worth it! He is a treasure that is more valuable than anything.

B.G.: That's why we are leaving right now to see Jesus and give him our treasures.