

CG GUIDE

Prepare the Way: Anointed

Icebreaker: Share about a time when someone's act of generosity or sacrifice left a deep impact on you. What made it meaningful?

Read: John 12:1–8

Passage Summary:

Six days before Passover, Jesus arrives in Bethany—the home of Lazarus, whom He had just raised from the dead. In this intimate setting, Mary does something shocking: she breaks open a jar of expensive perfume and pours it on Jesus' feet, wiping them with her hair. The fragrance fills the house. Judas objects, but Jesus defends her, revealing that her act is both worship and preparation—an anointing for His burial. Mary sees Jesus clearly, values Him rightly, and responds with costly devotion. Her worship prepares the way for the cross.

Takeaway: We worship Him with everything because He is worth more than anything

Discuss:

1. What details in this passage stand out to you as you picture the scene in Bethany?
2. Mary's act was costly, intimate, and public. Which of those three aspects challenges you the most, and why?
3. Judas criticizes Mary's worship. What does this reveal about the difference between **proximity to Jesus** and **devotion to Jesus**?
4. Jesus says Mary is preparing Him for burial. How does this moment point us toward the cross and the heart of Easter?
5. The fragrance "filled the house." How does genuine worship still have a way of affecting the people around us today?
6. What does this passage teach us about the difference between **performing for Jesus** and **pouring out our lives before Jesus**?
7. Where in your life is Jesus inviting you to offer something costly—your time, pride, comfort, habits, or resources?

Action Step

Identify one “jar” you need to break this week—one costly, intentional act of obedience or worship that reflects Jesus’ worth in your life. Take that step and share with someone in your group for encouragement and accountability.

Closing Prayer Prompt

“Jesus, You are worthy of our whole lives. Give us Mary’s clarity to see You, Mary’s courage to honor You, and Mary’s devotion to pour ourselves out before You. Anoint our hearts with Your presence so we can prepare the way for Your work in us and through us. Amen.”