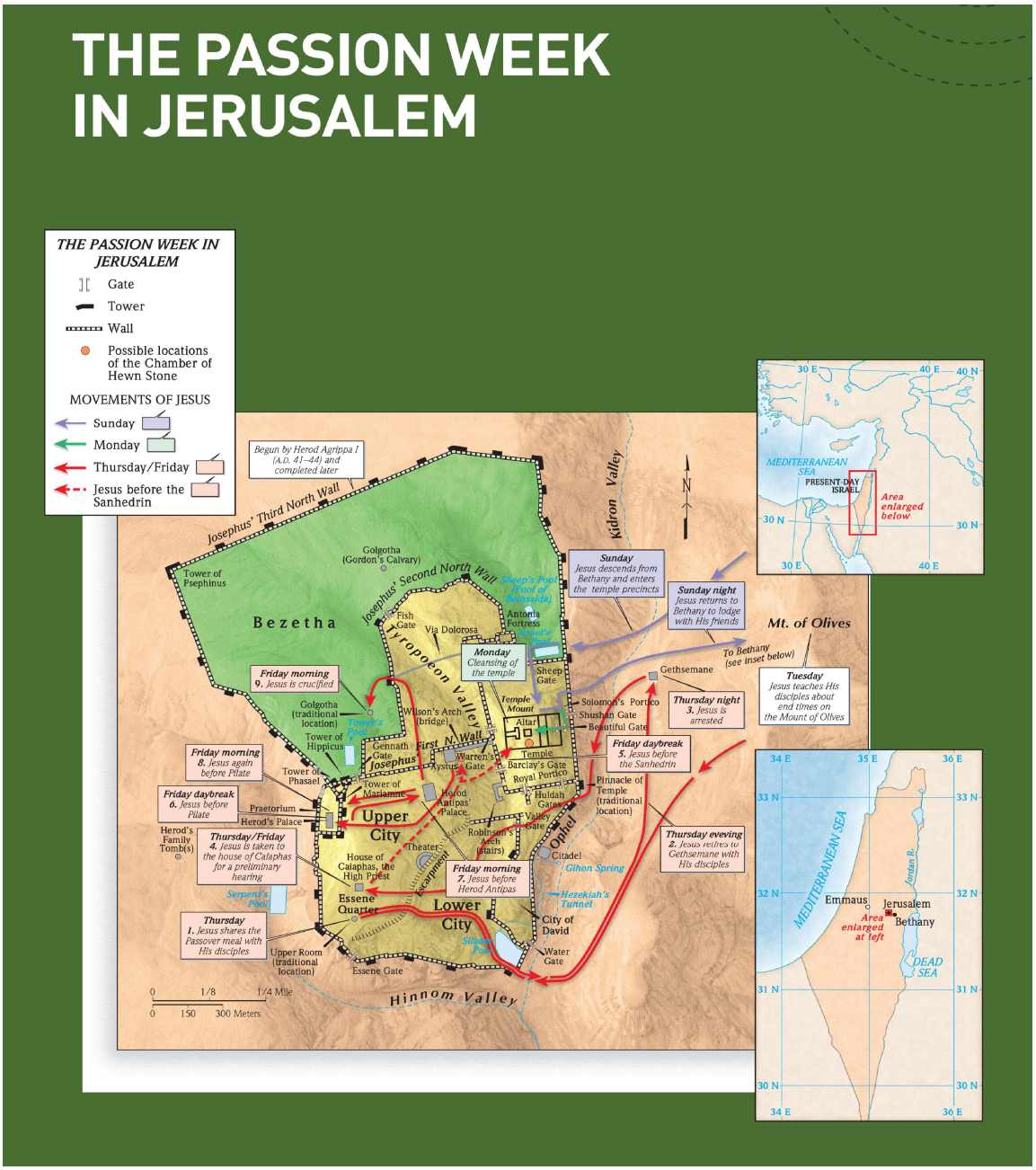
Unit II: Jesus' Private Ministry (John chapters 12-21)



The previous 11 chapters covered Jesus' public ministry which lasted about 3 years, the second half of this Gospel from chapter 12, covers His last week "Passion week"

Lesson 12 [Chapter 12]"The Triumphal Entry"

Remember:

Last lesson, Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, demonstrating His power over death and declaring Himself "The Resurrection and The Life".

Lesson Goal:

Jesus is our king, following Him requires humble devotion, obedience, and a willingness to honor Him above everything else in the world.

Lesson opener:

Imaginary dialogue: Let some kids act the scene out to the class.

- Jesus arrives at Lazarus' house soon after He has raised him.
- "Wow!" said Jesus when He came into the house, "It's so nice of you to have us all over for dinner!"
- "Well, it's the least I can do," said Martha. "I mean, you saved my brother's life! I'm just so grateful to you."
- "Martha," said Lazarus, "He didn't just save my life. He brought me back after I'd been dead for four days!"
- "I know!" said Martha. "It's still so amazing I can hardly think of words to say. So, I'm cooking for you. That's my way of saying 'thank you.' And of saying 'I love you.'"
- Jesus and His friends were on the floor around a low table, leaning on cushions, enjoying the first part of the feast. Mary came over to Jesus and poured perfume on His feet.
- But just as soon as you could smell the perfume, you could hear an angry voice. It was Judas.
- "What a waste!" he said. "That perfume could have been sold for a lot of money! Why didn't you do that so we could give it to the poor?"
- "Hey, it's my perfume!" said Mary. "I get to use it for whatever I want. And this is my way of saying 'thank you' to Jesus."
- "You are welcome, Mary," said Jesus. "That was a beautiful, generous gift. Thank you. And Martha, thank you for this wonderful meal. And thank you, Lazarus, for

sitting here and talking with me tonight. Those are all wonderful ways of saying 'thank you.'

- "I still think it was a waste," grumbled Judas.
- "Oh Judas," said Jesus sadly. "You can show your thankfulness by caring for the poor someday soon. But Mary's gift points to my death and burial."

Lesson Body:

Now we are starting the events of the Holy Week.

Anointing the Lord's Feet with Spikenard 12: 1-11

It has been said that we spend more time asking God for things we need rather than giving Him the thanks and praise that He deserves. If you think about it, we can never worship God enough. In our lesson today, we will see the difference between one who worships from a humble heart of praise and one who has a heart filled with selfishness and pride. Jesus wants us to worship Him with a humble heart.

JOHN 12:1: Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead.

It was six days before the Passover, and Jesus would soon triumphantly enter Jerusalem, riding on a humble donkey, and have a great multitude express their praise to Him. His days of ministry were coming to an end. This would be His last Passover celebration because He would be crucified on the cross as our Passover Lamb. He went back from Ephraim to Bethany where Lazarus lived and attended dinner in His honor.

JOHN 12:2: There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him.

Jesus knew that the religious leaders were out to arrest Him and kill Him, but He still returned to Bethany only two miles away from His enemies. Why? He wanted to spend some quiet time with His friends: Mary, Martha, Lazarus and others. How precious it is to have a friend like Jesus, who desires a relationship with us.

Martha was a perfect example of one who has a desire to work and serve the Lord. The religious leaders wanted to kill Lazarus because of the witness he was of the wonderful miracles that Jesus performed. Lazarus was a living testimony of the Lord's power over death.

JOHN 12:3: Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.

Mary's act of love and worship demonstrated a beautiful heart of humility to Jesus. Not only was it public, but spontaneous, sacrificial, lavish, and personal. Jesus wants us to worship Him with a humble heart. Mary's act of worship pleased Jesus very much.

It would have required a year's wages from a common laborer to purchase that ointment, perhaps a lifetime of savings. Yet, her beautiful act of worship was an example to us of what true worship is. Jesus was the most important one in her life and she was willing to give everything she had to please Him.

How much do we love Jesus? Are we willing to make the same sacrifice that Mary did? This ointment was used to anoint kings, and Mary's expression of worship spared no expense as she anointed her kingly Messiah. Jesus wants us to worship Him with a humble heart.



Mary understood who Jesus was and that He would soon give His life for her because she was content to sit at His feet and hear His every word. She wanted to spend as much time as possible with her Lord.

Judas appeared to be a man of integrity, but his heart was filled with selfishness and pride. He often dipped into the disciples' funds for his own use. Jesus of course knew this, but apparently never did or said anything about it. God might not immediately do anything to stop us, but this does not mean He approves of our actions.

Judas acted as if he was concerned about the poor as he criticized the "waste" of this perfume. His real desire was to pocket some of the money for himself. Mary gave openly and sacrificially; Jesus wants us to worship Him with a humble heart.

Shortly after this incident, Judas would betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver!

Jesus immediately defended Mary's act of love and devotion. It was a foreshadow of His burial. There will always be the opportunity to help the poor, but the opportunity to show love to Jesus while He was on the earth was limited.

Many of the Jews had heard about Lazarus being raised from the dead. It was the talk of the whole city. Therefore, people came not to see the Lord but to see the one who had been raised from the dead.

The Lord's Entry into Jerusalem 12:12 -19

Pin the Tail on the Donkey game:

Draw a tail-less donkey on the dry erase board. Make a tail. Choose children to tape the tails on the donkey. Blindfold each child one by one, turn them around several times and point them in the direction of the donkey.

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the donkey, the people lined up in the street to form a parade. They took their coats off and put them in front of the donkey Jesus was riding. They also put branches down so Jesus could parade over them. This was a celebration that people would only do for a triumphant king.

The palm tree branches are symbols of victory. Our Coptic church competes in decorating the churches with them on Palm Sunday.

People expressed their feelings by shouting "Hosanna!" or 'Hoshaana' which means 'He has redeemed us.'

In Zechariah 9:9, it was prophesied that Jesus would enter Jerusalem and be worshipped, while riding on a donkey. You see, God had a plan, and He revealed it to men thousands of years before Jesus even came to earth.

The Greeks Honor the Lord Jesus Christ 12:20 - 26

The Seed Analogy (Visual):

Use a seed, a cup of soil, and a picture of a fruitful plant to explain how death leads to new life.

Sir, we wish to see Jesus: These Greeks had heard of Jesus, perhaps of His reputation as a teacher and worker of miracles. What they did know of Jesus made them want to know more about Him, so they came to Philip asking to see Jesus.

Let us learn from them to seek Him. Sadly enough, during our big Coptic feasts, many Christians are so preoccupied with the preparations for the feast that they do not yearn to see the Lord Jesus Christ!!!

Jesus gives a word picture here that has some prediction as to His upcoming death. He uses a plant analogy to describe how a grain of wheat has to "die", in a sense, in order to

come up out of the ground and grow and bring plants and food to many. Jesus knew that He was like that wheat, and that He would have to die and give up His life to help others. Through His death, we have life!

The Heavens Glorify the Lord Jesus Christ 12:27 - 43

Read 27-33:

Everyone who was around heard this voice. They might have been puzzling, wondering what Jesus was talking about. But then they heard a thundering promise from Heaven that God's name would be glorified.

Can you think of other times that God's voice was heard? (Consider the baptism and transfiguration of Jesus). How can we bring glory to God in our lives?

Jesus knew that the people around Him would still not fully understand who He was, but that God's voice had been spoken aloud for their benefit. He knew His purpose, and how powerful it would be for all the world. He came to drive out darkness, death, sin, and the devil, and to do that, He knew He'd have to die.

Ask: What do you think Jesus means? How was Jesus "lifted up" ?

Jesus affirmed who He was and solidified for doubters His status as the Son of God who would be glorified. On the cross, Jesus was literally lifted up for all to see. After His death, He was lifted up in resurrection. All who look to Him, then, are lifted up by God and will live with Him forever.

35 Then Jesus said to them, "A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. 36 While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light."

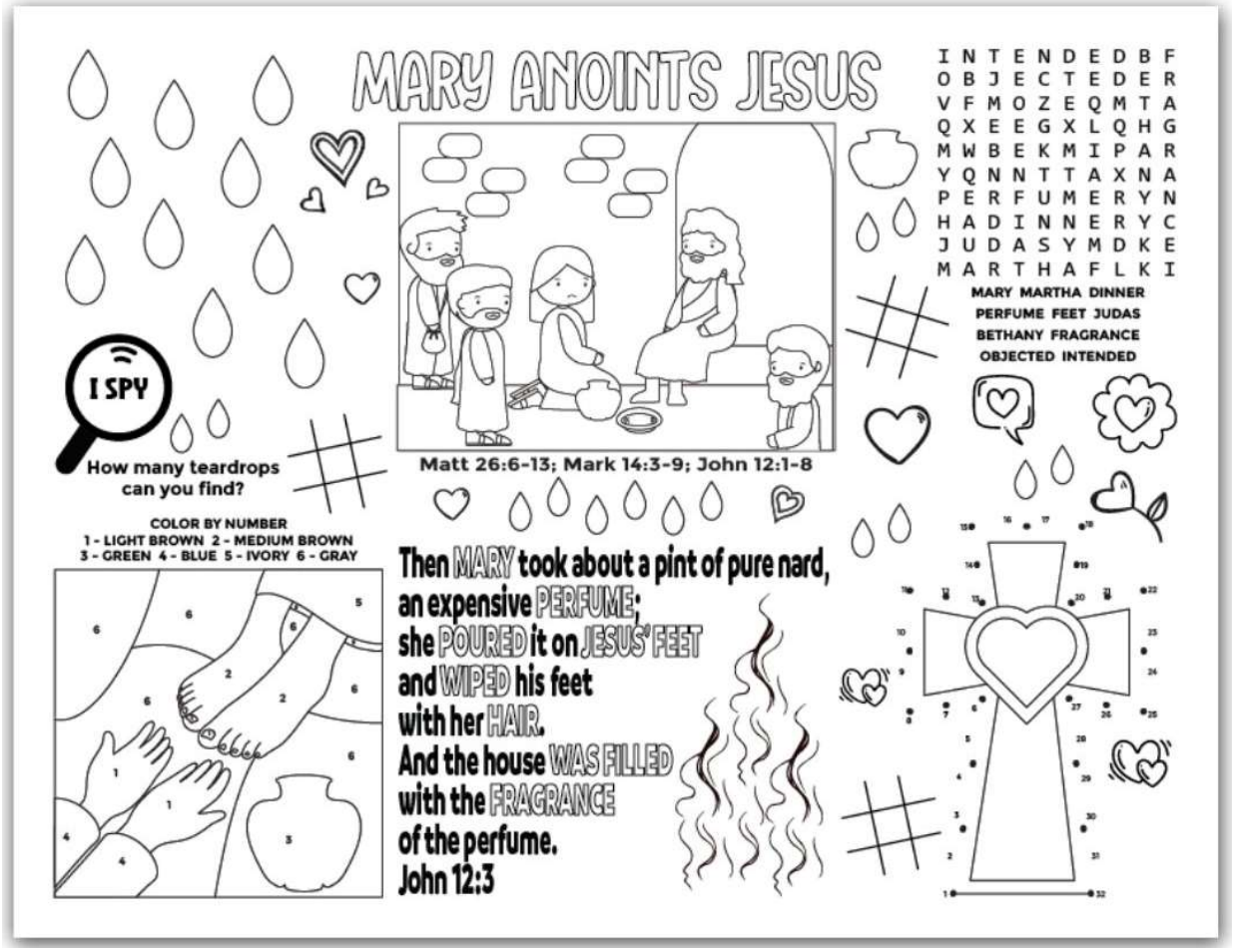
Light, in this context, symbolizes truth and revelation. Those who embrace the light—who believe in Jesus—are freed from judgment. But those who reject Him, who choose to remain in darkness, will face condemnation, not because Jesus came to judge them, but because in rejecting Him, they reject life itself.

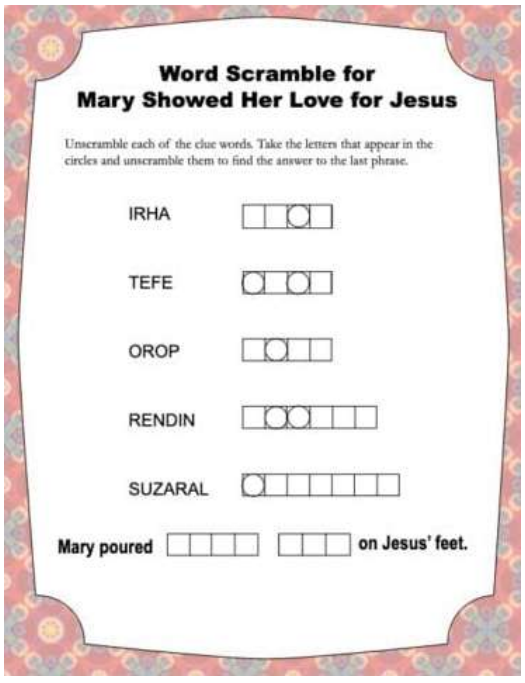
The Lord Witnesses for Himself 12:44 – 50

The Word that He has spoken—the truth He has revealed—will serve as the standard for judgment on the last day. In other words, people are judged by their response to the gospel—whether they receive or reject the light that has been given to them.

Memory Verse: 12:25 He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

Activities:


MARY ANOINTS JESUS
I SPY
How many teardrops can you find?
Matt 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; John 12:1-8
COLOR BY NUMBER
1 - LIGHT BROWN 2 - MEDIUM BROWN
3 - GREEN 4 - BLUE 5 - IVORY 6 - GRAY
Then MARY took about a pint of pure nard,
an expensive PERFUME;
she POURED it on JESUS' FEET
and WIPED his feet
with her HAIR.
And the house WAS FILLED
with the FRAGRANCE
of the perfume.
John 12:3
I N T E N D E D B F
O B J E C T E D E R
V F M O Z E Q M T A
Q X E E G X L Q H G
M W B E K M I P A R
Y Q N N T T A X N A
P E R F U M E R Y N
H A D I N N E R Y C
J U D A S Y M D K E
M A R T H A F L K I
MARY MARTHA DINNER
PERFUME FEET JUDAS
BETHANY FRAGRANCE
OBJECTED INTENDED


Word Scramble for
Mary Showed Her Love for Jesus
Unscramble each of the clue words. Take the letters that appear in the circles and unscramble them to find the answer to the last phrase.
IRHA
TEFE
OROP
RENDIN
SUZARAL
Mary poured on Jesus' feet.

PALM SUNDAY ACTIVITY PLACEMAT

