

Children's Church at Home 14 March 2021

Craft: 2 cups flour, 1 cup salt, 1 cup water, 1 tablespoon oil, a mixing bowl and spoon to mix. Also something that smells lovely: peppermint essence, vanilla extract, almond extract, garlic paste, lemon or orange essential oil, or something else! Just a few drops.

And for Mother's Day, card, pens, scissors, tissue paper or tissues, pritt stick, Sellotape, straws or pipe cleaners or lolly sticks, and a plate and a small glass or cup to draw round.

First: what do you think of these smells: say 'yum' or 'yuk': Petrol? Roses? Your feet? Pizza? Perfume? Smells and scents are very important to us, aren't they?

Do you remember what gifts the Wise Men brought baby Jesus? In today's story, Jesus isn't a baby any more, in fact, he's coming to the end of his life. And someone else brings him a very valuable smelly present.

Story: [John 12:1-8 ERV - Jesus in Bethany With His Friends - Six - Bible Gateway](#)

Video: <https://youtu.be/cl-VSPLdqXk>

or this one (just look at those eyes!!) <https://youtu.be/cEVyxehg3Yc>

Think: Jesus has gone for dinner with his dear old friends, Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha. Can you imagine the scene? They're lying on couches to eat, like the Romans. Mary opens her most expensive precious jar of perfume and gently rubs Jesus' feet with it. Do you know how relaxing it is to have a foot massage? Just wonderful! So she is doing the most generous thing she can think of for the person she loves and admires most in the whole world. Well, someone's not happy. Judas looks after the money box for all of them, and he exclaims, '**what** are you doing? We could have sold that for a whole lot of money and given it to the poor!' Sounded good didn't it? but John, who's telling us this story, knows that Judas was also taking money from the money box for himself. Huh.

'Oh, no,' replies Jesus, 'don't tell Mary off. She is doing the right thing, because she is preparing my body for when I die. And you will always have poor people to look after.' Remember! All the money in the world is not worth as much as God's love. And let's continue to help poor people **because** God loves us.

What is your most favourite thing? Do you have a teddy who always goes to bed with you? A toy dog which sits up and barks? A chess set given to you by someone very special. Have you seen a television programme called the Repair Shop? It's a lovely programme about craftsmen and women who can repair all sorts of things from toys to books to chairs to paintings. Each week people take their very precious things to be repaired. Usually, they are things which they treasure, not because they are very valuable, but because they remind them of people they love. And who have died. At the end of the programme, they go back to pick up the repaired article. When they see it, looking as they always remembered it, they are always so thrilled and they sometimes cry!

Imagine giving your favourite thing to Jesus. It would be difficult. How would you feel? But there's something more precious about you than your favourite thing. Yourself. When we decide to devote our lives to God, that's what we're doing. Go for it!

Craft: Make your own scented playdough. And, because it's Mothers' Day, make a bouquet of flowers for your Mummy.

Activity: You'll need some scented hand cream. Ask someone you love if you can give them a gentle foot massage! Ask them to sit somewhere comfortable and put their feet up on a stool. Put on some restful music and ask them not to use their phone while you're working. Gently remove the socks. Put a drop of hand cream on each hand, and smooth it gently but firmly over their feet, toes, heels, and ankles. Take your time. Add more hand cream if your hands become dry. When you've finished, carefully put their socks back on. Beware! if you touch too lightly, it can tickle!

Prayer: Lord God, Mary gave her most precious perfume to Jesus. We love to give you our most precious possession: ourselves. Teach us to love you and serve others just like Mary in this story. Amen.

The Grace: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore. Amen.