

Fifth Sunday of Lent – year C

Preparation

Read [Isaiah 43: 16-21](#) and [John 12: 1-8](#). Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump at you. Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yearc/lentc5.htm>

<http://www.msscrafter.com/newtestament/mary.htm>

http://archive.episcopalchurch.org/lessonPlans/109452_115778_ENG_HTML.htm:

scroll down to find the lesson for this Sunday

<http://children.cccm.com/NTSupportCurriculumPDF/259MaryAnointsJesusFeet.pdf>

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/lent5les.htm>

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/lent5lart.htm>

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/giving-your-best.html>

Gathering

Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle
- Candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- Purple cloth
- Newsprint and markers
- Basket, star, heart, bread shapes and water droplet shape at end of lesson
- Pencils or pens
- Blue construction paper

Copy the water droplet shape at the end of the lesson. Trace it onto the blue construction paper and make one for each child. Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you. With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the Bible on the cloth. Light the candle. Pray the following prayer together:

For a time to pray, we bless you God.

For a time to learn, we bless you Jesus.

For a time to grow, we bless you Holy Spirit. Amen.

Blow out the candle. Give each child a water droplet shape. Ask the children to think about a time when they were really thirsty. What did they do? Did they get a big drink of water to make them feel better? Explain to the children that one of the promises God makes to the people is that in God's kingdom no one will ever be thirsty again. Now ask them to think about what happens to plants and animals when they do not have enough water – they usually die. God tells us through the prophets that won't happen ever again in God's kingdom. God will look after us and the rest of creation. Have the children think about one way that they can help spread this holy water to others. Get them to draw or write it on their water droplets and then put it into the basket.

Story Time

Instructions

- Teach the children the following chant for use during the story. Ask them to say it slowly and with love in their voice:

**A gift of love, a gift of love,
Mary gives Jesus a gift of Love.**

Jesus and his friends needed a break. Jesus had been teaching and healing for a long time. They all knew that the leadership in Jerusalem wanted to arrest Jesus. The leadership was worried about what Jesus was saying about God's kingdom. Jesus went with his friends to Bethany to the home of their friends Lazarus, Martha and Mary.

**A gift of love, a gift of love,
Mary gives Jesus a gift of Love.**

While they were there they had a special dinner together. Martha worked hard in the kitchen to prepare the best meal she cooked for Jesus and his friends. The whole family was so happy to have them there and wanted it to be an extra special evening for everyone.

**A gift of love, a gift of love,
Mary gives Jesus a gift of Love.**

Martha started serving the meal. She was so happy to see that all their guests were enjoying the food. The conversation was good and Martha could tell that Jesus was beginning to relax and enjoy himself. Then her sister Mary did something amazing that startled all there.

**A gift of love, a gift of love,
Mary gives Jesus a gift of Love.**

Mary took out a jar of very expensive perfume. She knelt by Jesus' feet. She opened the jar of perfume and began to pour it over Jesus' feet. Then Mary lovingly wiped Jesus' feet with her hair. The whole house became full of the scent of the perfume.

**A gift of love, a gift of love,
Mary gives Jesus a gift of Love.**

Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' followers and someone who wasn't sure what Jesus was really sure about, spoke up at this point and said, "Jesus would it not have been better for her to sell the perfume and give the money to the poor?"

Jesus said, "Leave Mary alone. She has done a wonderful thing for me. You will always have the poor with you. I won't always be with you."

**A gift of love, a gift of love,
Mary gives Jesus a gift of Love.**

Response

Project Idea 1: Gift Cards

Sharing Mary's gift of love for Jesus with others is an important thing that we all need to do in our lives as Christians. This response will help the children to share that gift with others.

Materials needed

- card stock or construction paper
- gift card message from end of lesson
- glitter
- markers
- scissors
- spring stickers (if you have them)
- glue sticks
- zippered plastic bags

Instructions

Make enough copies of the gift card message so that each child has two sheets of them. Give each child the copies and read with them the message on the card. Have them carefully cut out the messages and glue them onto pieces of card stock or construction paper that are slightly larger than the messages. Let the children decorate them with the glitter by spreading glue on and then shaking the glitter on to it. If you have the spring stickers then let them put those on as well. If they want let them use the markers to decorate the gift cards. Give each child a zippered plastic bag and get them to put their gift cards into the bag. Encourage the children to give their cards to someone who needs an extra gift of love over the next two weeks that are left in Lent.

Project Idea 2: Love Painting

An offering of love to Jesus is something that the children can make concrete by doing a painting and sharing it with their families.

Materials needed

- drawing paper or newsprint
- tempera paints
- paint brushes
- small containers and water
- newspapers
- cardboard
- scissors
- markers
- markers
- glitter (optional)

Instructions

On the cardboard draw hearts of different shapes and cut them out. Cover the work space with newspaper and set out the cardboard hearts, paint in small containers, paint brushes and the containers of water. Give each child a piece of drawing paper or newsprint. Get them to print across the top with a marker the following **“A gift of love for Jesus”**. Explain that they can use the hearts by tracing around them with the paint or by using them to make stencil heart shapes

on the paper. Encourage them to be as creative as they can with making their paintings. When they are finished painting let them sprinkle glitter over the paint (if you have it) – it will make the painting sparkly when it dries. Invite them to share their paintings with their families as a gift for them as well.

Project Idea 3: Wall of Faith – Perfume Gifts

This will be an ongoing activity that the children can do all together throughout the season. Each week they will put up a new symbol onto their wall.

Materials needed

- perfume bottle shape at the end of the lesson
- blue construction paper
- scissors
- markers
- sticky tape or masking tape

Instructions

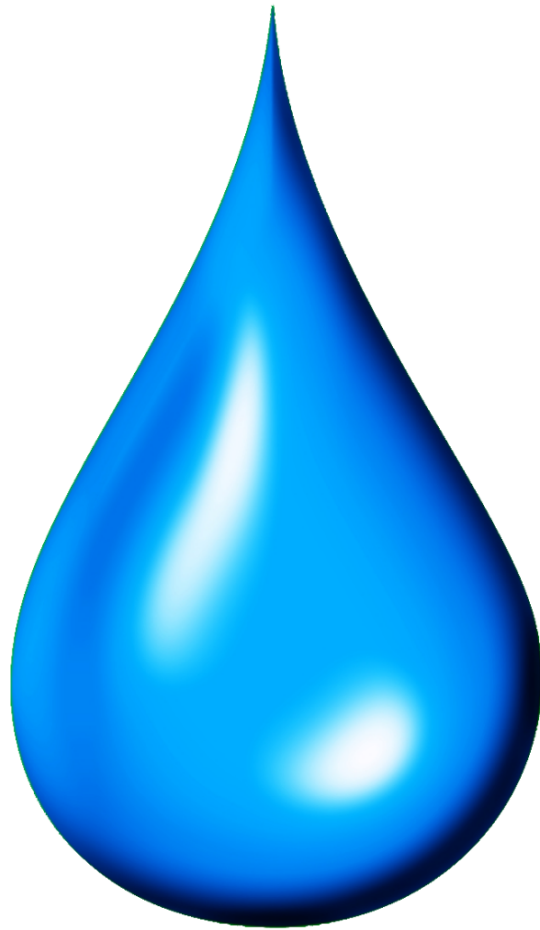
Copy the perfume bottle shape at the end of the lesson. Trace onto the blue construction paper, so that each child has one. Have the children cut out their perfume bottle shape carefully. Remind the children that today's story was about the most precious gift that Mary could give to her friend Jesus. Ask the children to think about the most precious gift that they could give to Jesus. Have them draw or write their gift onto the perfume bottle and then put it up on their wall of faith. If you have enough time go over the previous four symbols to remind the children where they have been so far in Lent.

Closing

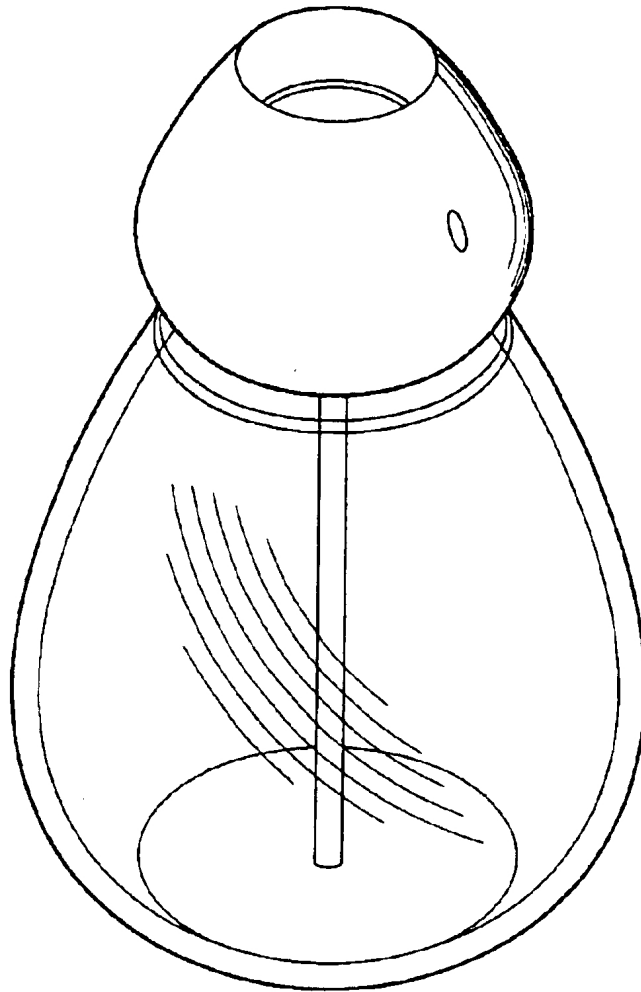
Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candle. Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

**You hear our voice, loving God at all times,
You walk with us, Jesus at all times,
You urge us on, Holy Spirit at all times,
Loving Presence surround and keep us. Amen.**

Water droplet



Perfume Bottle



Gift-Card Message

<p>GIFT OF LOVE</p> <p>Jesus loves you</p> <p>I love you</p>	<p>GIFT OF LOVE</p> <p>Jesus loves you</p> <p>I love you</p>
<p>GIFT OF LOVE</p> <p>Jesus loves you</p> <p>I love you</p>	<p>GIFT OF LOVE</p> <p>Jesus loves you</p> <p>I love you</p>
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