



Week 5
3 - 9 April 2022

**SMALL GROUP WEEKLY
DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL**

LENT & HOLY WEEK



Daily Bible readings, a memory verse and a prayer for individual contemplation

Weekly worship song, reflection and small group questions

Week 5 – 3 April



Jesus anointed at Bethany

First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Isaiah 43:16-21	Psalm 126	Philippians 3:4b-14	John 12:1-8



Praise and Worship: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=izrk-erhDdk>
(Cornerstone – Hillsong)

John 12:1-8 New International Version – UK

Jesus anointed at Bethany

12 Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honour. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. 3 Then Mary



took about half a litre 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. 4 But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, 5 'Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages 6 He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. 7 'Leave her alone,' Jesus replied. 'It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. 8 You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.'

Reflection the Scripture by: THABANG JANUARY

Carpe Diem!!! One of the differences between the gospel of John and the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark & Luke) is how Jesus carries out his teachings. In the synoptic gospels Jesus is teaching through the parables and short concise sayings whilst in the gospel of John he uses long discourses.

In the text we read, the end was nearing for Jesus. The plot to kill him by the Pharisees was gaining momentum. For Jesus to go to Jerusalem six days before Passover, was an act of boldness and courage, for he knew the authorities were going to arrest him and kill him. Bethany was near Jerusalem and so it was also used as an overflow place when people could not find space to rest in Jerusalem for the Passover because many people from all over came to Jerusalem for the Passover.

Jesus had a relationship with the family of Lazarus which resided in Bethany. When he came to Bethany, they made a dinner in his honour. Martha is being a great host; she is serving Jesus. Lazarus is reclining on the table (probably waiting for a delicious meal 😊) and then there's Mary, who took an expensive perfume and poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped it off with her hair. And the fragrance of the perfume filled the whole house.

Mary loved Jesus so much that she went against the tradition that said a woman's hair must always be bound. If it's not, it was a sign of an immoral woman. Mary loved Jesus more than the amount of her perfume. Mary shows honour to Jesus. Mary forgets about everything but gives total respect to Jesus. Mary does not wait for another chance, she seizes the moment, she seizes the day. Mary makes the most of the moment she has. As the Latin saying goes: "Carpe Diem" ("Seize the day").

Even when Judas complained for his selfish reasons and worries about the price of the perfume; Jesus affirms what Mary did. Mary did not wait for Jesus' death to anoint him as was the tradition of the time, she seized the moment.

Have you accepted Jesus as your Lord and personal saviour? Or are you waiting for Good Friday? Well, you don't have to wait – CARPE DIEM!

The good news of our faith is that Jesus is always accessible to those who seek him. Carpe Diem!

Small Group Questions:

1. Which part of the passage did you find interesting? And why is that?
2. Have you ever regretted missing an opportunity to do something? Please share and tell us how it made you feel afterwards
3. What is the lesson you're taking from the passage? How do you intend using it to improve your spiritual life?

Daily Bible Reading, Memory Verse and Prayer:



MONDAY, April 4, 2022: [Psalm 20](#); [Exodus 40:1-15](#); [Hebrews 10:19-25](#)

Memory Verse: "May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed." *Psalm 20:4*

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I know you are a God who listens to our prayers. Like the Psalmist, I pray that you grant us our heart desires and make us succeed. **Amen**

TUESDAY, April 5, 2022: [Psalm 20](#); [Judges 9:7-15](#); [1 John 2:18-28](#)

Memory Verse: "May he remember all your sacrifices and accept your burnt offerings." *Psalm 20:3*

Prayer: God of life and Love, please accept my life as a sacrifice to you for theirs is nothing worthy I can offer to you for all your goodness and faithfulness. **Amen**

WEDNESDAY, April 6, 2022: [Psalm 20](#); [Habakkuk 3:2-15](#); [Luke 18:31-34](#)

Memory Verse: "Some trust in chariots and some in horses but we trust in the name of the Lord our God." *Psalm 20:7*

Prayer: Gracious and Loving God, help us trust in not in the things we attained on this earth but in your Holy and Powerful name. **Amen**

THURSDAY, April 7, 2022: [Psalm 31:9-16](#); [Isaiah 53:10-12](#); [Hebrews 2:1-9](#)

Memory Verse: "Be merciful to me, Lord, for I am in distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and body with grief." *Psalm 31:9*

Prayer: Merciful God, may I experience your love and care in moments of distress, sorrow, and grief. Strengthen me by your love and mercy. **Amen**

FRIDAY, April 8, 2022: [Psalm 31:9-16](#); [Isaiah 54:9-10](#); [Hebrews 2:10-18](#)

Memory Verse: "For I hear many whisperings, 'Terror on every side!' They conspire against me and plot to take my life." *Psalm 31:13*

Prayer: Lord my protector, remind me whenever I face danger that you are always my protector, and I will never face any battle alone. **Amen**

SATURDAY, April 9, 2022: [Psalm 31:9-16](#); [Leviticus 23:1-8](#); [Luke 22:1-13](#)

Memory Verse: "But I trust in you, Lord; I say, 'You are my God.'" *Psalm 31:14*

Prayer: Gracious and Loving God, all my trust is in you, help me through the power of the Holy Spirit to remain faithful to you and you alone as my Lord. **Amen**



It is important for parents to take time to lead the conversations of family time and to be honest with their children in these conversations.

BY JENNY BLAKE – CHILDREN'S PASTOR
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Sunday 3rd April 2022

Pray daily: Set up family time for prayer and devotions and stick to this arrangement. All devotions should always begin by with a prayer. Ask a family member to pray or one of the children.

Scripture Reading: [John 12:1-8](#)

Tell the story of the dinner and how they were sitting at the table and Mary came and poured expensive perfume on his feet and wiped his feet with her hair. She saw Jesus as very special and someone to be honoured. She saw God in Jesus. Then tell them of the objection to her action from Judas and Jesus response that the poor are always with us, but he will not always be with us.

1. Who do you identify with in this story?
2. Do you think Mary was wrong to use the expensive oil? Why or why not?
3. Can you see God in nature?
4. Can you see God in other people?
5. How do you see God in the world around you?
6. How do you show your friends/family that they are special and that you love them?
7. What do you think Jesus meant by saying we will always have the poor with us, but he wont always be with us?

Talk about how and when and where you see God in the world around you and in everyday things and people.

What characteristics would you expect to find in a person who lets God be the centre of their life?